



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WTO SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2020:
GENERAL INFORMATION, SELECTION PROCESS AND APPLICATION FORM**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Addendum

1. The WTO Secretariat had planned to organize the technical assistance activities on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) detailed in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10](#) of 3 March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these activities have had to be reviewed.

2. This document provides an update on the delivery of SPS-specific WTO technical assistance activities to be provided by the WTO in 2020.

1 E-LEARNING COURSE ON THE SPS AGREEMENT

3. The WTO offers an E-Learning Course on the SPS Agreement (SPS E-Learning Course), which continues to be delivered as detailed in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10](#).

2 NATIONAL SPS SEMINARS

4. WTO developing country Members and Observers are entitled to request national seminars with a view to address specific training needs on the SPS Agreement and its implementation, as described in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10](#).

5. National SPS seminars will continue to be delivered, through videoconference systems, until the conditions change and allow for the resumption of face-to-face activities.

6. The SPS Team is available to discuss the organization of virtual national seminars with interested Members and Observers. To obtain more information about the options available for virtual national seminars, Members and Observers are invited to contact the SPS Team at spscommittee@wto.org, indicating their areas of interest.

3 THEMATIC SPS WORKSHOP

7. The special Thematic SPS Workshop on risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, scheduled to take place on Monday, 22 June and Tuesday, 23 June 2020, has been postponed and will most likely be held in 2021.

8. Consequently, the online application form available at <https://worldtradeorganization.wufoo.com/forms/2020-wto-sps-technical-assistance-application-form/> will be closed. Interested individuals should submit a new application once the activity has been rescheduled.

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.

4 REGIONAL SPS WORKSHOPS

9. A Regional SPS Workshop for Latin America, with a focus on transparency and the role of National Notification Authorities, was planned in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). This workshop will not be held in 2020. The co-organizers will explore the possibility of holding it in 2021.

10. Consequently, the online application form available at <https://worldtradeorganization.wufoo.com/forms/2020-wto-sps-technical-assistance-application-form/> will be closed. Interested individuals should submit a new application once the activity has been rescheduled.

5 OTHER SPS WORKSHOPS

11. The WTO Secretariat is available to organize tailored SPS Workshops, to be delivered via videoconference. These workshops can address horizontal requests and may include participants from more than one Member. They cover training on the ePing alert system, the SPS Notification Submission System, the use of the SPS Committee eAgenda and other areas, as requested.

12. The objective of these workshops is to provide continuous training on the tools made available to Members through the WTO, and therefore support the use of these in the daily work of relevant agencies.

6 ADVANCED SPS COURSE AND FOLLOW-UP SESSION

13. The 2020 Advanced SPS Course was scheduled to be held from **26 October to 13 November 2020** in Geneva, Switzerland, in **French**. The 2020 version of this course has been cancelled.

14. Consequently, the online application form available at <https://worldtradeorganization.wufoo.com/forms/2020-wto-sps-technical-assistance-application-form/> will be closed. Interested individuals are invited to apply for future technical assistance activities.
