

**THE SECOND REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SPS AGREEMENT**

Work Programme

Submission by New Zealand

The following communication, received on 22 November 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of New Zealand.

1. New Zealand considers that the Committee should give high priority to discussing the distinct yet complementary roles of the Committee and the relevant international standard-setting bodies (ISSBs) with a view to avoiding overlaps and unnecessary duplication of efforts. This is a crosscutting issue which has particular relevance to other matters currently under discussion within the Committee including with regard to regionalization.

2. It is New Zealand's view that the Committee should refer matters relating to scientific and technical matters pertaining to the practical application of the Agreement (in particular the development, implementation and harmonization with international standards, recommendations or guidelines) to the relevant ISSBs, which have the necessary technical expertise and experience to consider them, in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided. The ISSBs then can, if necessary, report back to the Committee with appropriate advice and/or recommendations of further work required.

3. We see that articulation by the ISSBs of their respective mandates, including their interest in and ability to develop procedural guidelines, would be useful for Members, as would discussions amongst the Secretariats of Codex, OIE and IPPC and the SPS Committee to clarify their roles in the administration of the SPS Agreement.
