

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR A WORKSHOP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE SPS COMMITTEE AND THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD-SETTING
ORGANIZATIONS**

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. One of the issues identified for further consideration by the SPS Committee during the Second Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement was the relationship between the SPS Committee and the three international standard-setting organizations referenced in the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/36, paragraphs 89-91). At the June 2008 meeting of the SPS Committee, Japan submitted a proposal (G/SPS/W/226) for a special workshop to focus on the procedures and issues before the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) ("3 Sisters"). New Zealand also proposed some specific issues which could be addressed on the relationship between the Committee and the 3 Sisters (G/SPS/W/206). The Committee endorsed those proposals, and the Secretariat indicated that such a workshop could be organized in the margins of the Committee's October 2009 meeting.
2. Members requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft programme for the workshop, for consideration by the Committee. The attached proposed programme is based primarily on the suggestions from Japan and New Zealand, and consultations with Codex, IPPC and OIE.
3. The workshop will invite the representatives of the 3 Sisters to describe the process and procedures used in the development and adoption of international standards, guidelines and recommendations of relevance to the SPS Agreement. Delegates to the SPS Committee will have the opportunity to discuss how to improve coordination of the work between the 3 Sisters and the Committee to enhance effectiveness and avoid duplication.

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.

**WORKSHOP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPS COMMITTEE
AND THE CODEX, IPPC AND OIE**

26 October 2009

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

10.00 – 10.15	Opening remarks by the Chair
10.15 – 10.30	<p>General introduction – WTO Secretariat</p> <p><u>Highlight questions to be addressed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Relevant role of the SPS Committee <i>vis-à-vis</i> (Codex, IPPC, OIE, "3 Sisters")(b) Potential areas of duplication and opportunities for collaboration(c) SPS Committee's process to invite 3 Sisters to address concerns(d) Evaluation of the actions taken by 3 Sisters to resolve issues forwarded by the SPS Committee(e) Consistency in interpretation of the SPS Agreement across the 3 Sisters(f) Monitoring of work carried out by other relevant international bodies(g) Equivalence, non-use of standards, absence of standards, or inappropriate standards and their prioritization within the Committee
10.30 – 11.00	<p>FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Background on standard-setting and collaboration with the SPS Committee(b) The standard-setting process: role of science; participation of Members, in particular developing countries; decision-making process; duration, etc.(c) Monitoring the use of standards: how is it done; where and how to effectively address concerns related to non-implementation; difficulties with implementation; new developments requiring review of standards, etc.(d) Recent/systemic improvements in standard-setting(e) Emerging/challenging issues: private standards; climate change; regionalization; equivalence, etc.
11.00 – 11.20	Questions and answers

11.20 – 11.50	<p>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Background on standard-setting and collaboration with the SPS Committee (b) The standard-setting process: role of science; participation of Members, in particular developing countries; decision-making process; duration, etc. (c) Monitoring the use of standards: how is it done; where and how to effectively address concerns related to non-implementation; difficulties with implementation; new developments requiring review of standards, etc. (d) Recent/systemic improvements in standard-setting (e) Emerging/challenging issues: private standards; climate change; regionalization; equivalence, commodity based standards, etc.
11.50 – 12.10	Questions and answers
12.10 – 12.40	<p>FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Background on standard-setting and collaboration with the SPS Committee (b) The standard-setting process: role of science; participation of Members, in particular developing countries; decision-making process; duration, etc. (c) Monitoring the use of standards: how is it done; where and how to effectively address concerns related to non-implementation; difficulties with implementation; new developments requiring review of standards, etc. (d) Recent/systemic improvements in standard-setting (e) Emerging/challenging issues: private standards; food safety vs. quality; equivalence, etc.
12.40 – 13.00	Questions and answers
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch break
15.00 – 17.45	<p>Identifying concrete actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Enhance the coordination between the Committee and 3 Sisters; (ii) Increase the use and usefulness of international standards; and (iii) Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

