

**PROPOSED REVISION OF THE PROCEDURE TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY OF
SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRY MEMBERS (G/SPS/33)**

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, received on 10 June 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

1. Argentina would like to thank the WTO Secretariat for document G/SPS/W/224/Rev.4 containing additional comments and suggestions by Members following the circulation of the third revision.
2. Argentina attaches great importance to concluding as soon as possible the revision of the procedure to enhance transparency of special and differential treatment in favour of the developing countries, and sees the effective implementation of the procedure as fundamental to assessing its efficiency.
3. Regarding document G/SPS/W/224/Rev.4 prepared by the Secretariat, we would like to make the following suggestions for the proposed new paragraph 2:

"2. The Committee ~~may~~ shall assess the needs of developing country Members, and in particular least-developed country Members, and shall adopt such recommendations as it deems appropriate to ensure the effective functioning of a National Notification Authority and Enquiry Point, including the capacity to effectively receive and review the notifications of other Members, in order to identify and react to those which may have a potential significant effect on their international trade.¹ Members are encouraged to follow the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (Article 7) and the guidance in the Procedural Step-by-Step Manual for SPS National Notification Authorities and SPS National Enquiry Points.² Members who need assistance in this regard should consider, *inter alia*, the use of the "mentoring" mechanism for assisting Members in the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.³"

¹ Work has been done in a number of fora (e.g. STDF regional assessments, STDF 108 IICA project on enquiry points in the Americas) on determining the needs of national enquiry points in developing and least-developed country Members.

² G/SPS/7/Rev.3. The Procedural Manual is available on request from the WTO Secretariat or electronically at: http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/sps_procedure_manual_e.pdf

³ G/SPS/W/217.