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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**FIFTH REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT
ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

**ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ADDRESSING SPS ISSUES
(SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS)**

Submission from South Africa

Addendum

The following communication, received on 22 February 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of South Africa.

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1. South Africa would like to refer to its proposal G/SPS/W/304 dated 3 September 2018.
 2. South Africa appreciates the comments on its proposal received from Members and the information that was provided by the Secretariat relevant to the proposal.
 3. The International Standard Setting Bodies (ISSBs) are specifically mentioned in Article 3.4 of the SPS Agreement. This mentioning elevates the ISSBs to a special role in this Committee. South Africa is of the view that the Committee is not fully utilizing this special role as the ISSBs are not accorded preferential standing within the Committee, and are treated equally to all other observers in the meetings of this Committee.
 4. A note by the Secretariat, G/SPS/R/57 dated 22 February 2010, summarized the recommendations of a workshop on the relationship between the SPS Committee and the ISSBs. South Africa wants to specifically highlight recommendations 7 and 8. They read as follows:
 - Recommendation 7: *The SPS Committee transmitting information relating to trade issues linked to non-use of standards, absence of standards, or inappropriate standards to the relevant Sister organization;*
 - Recommendation 8: *Requesting the three Sisters to analyze the current specific trade concerns raised in the SPS Committee to see which of these could have been addressed by the use of the existing international standards.*
 5. South Africa would like to propose that the Secretariat write to the ISSBs requesting them to implement recommendation 8 of the workshop:
 - To analyze the STCs and to identify those which could have been addressed by the use of existing international standards. The relevant Sister Organization will then submit a report to the Secretariat;
 - Upon receipt of this report from each of the three Sisters, it is proposed that the Secretariat share the report with the Committee and organize a workshop wherein each of the three Sisters will share its analysis of the identified STC(s).
 6. The report and comments by the ISSBs are of an advisory nature only, and must be understood to be in their own responsibility and not binding on any WTO Member.
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