

WORLD TRADE
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**Committee on Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures**

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STATEMENT MADE BY ARGENTINA AT THE MEETING
OF 20-21 MARCH 1996

Guidelines to Supplement the SPS Committee's 1996 Programme of Work

It is suggested that the following should be taken into account as measures to implement the provisions of Article 12 of the Agreement:

- Encourage countries with bilateral disagreements about the interpretation of their rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement to use the Committee, whenever possible, as a forum for consultation on and disclosure of these situations, rather than use the dispute settlement provisions. The practice of transparency and consultation in such situations could serve as a mechanism for understanding the approaches used, assessing the reasons therefor and becoming uniformly acquainted with the issues that are of outstanding interest to Members in the context of the interpretation and implementation of the Agreement;
- Include as a regular item on the Committee's agenda the "counter-notification of measures or practices that can be regarded as inconsistent with the Agreement and which affect WTO Members";
- Make a list of those Members which have risk assessment units (RAUs);
- Compile a catalogue of risk assessments developed and applied;
- Consideration by the Committee of relevant practical cases of the application of Article 4 of the Agreement that the Members involved are willing to submit voluntarily to the Committee;
- Publish a Yearbook of training activities on Agreement-related topics that are carried out or coordinated by competent international or regional bodies, together with the recommendations emanating from such activities.