



**General Council
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY DECLARATION FOR
THE TWELFTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE:
RESPONDING TO MODERN SPS CHALLENGES**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT ON THE WORK PROGRAMME

1. The present report is being submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) on his own responsibility.
2. The MC12 SPS Ministerial Declaration: Responding to Modern Challenges ([WT/MIN\(22\)/27](#)) was adopted at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference, held in Geneva in June 2022. Following its adoption, the Committee started implementing the mandate to undertake a work programme, open to all Members and Observers, consisting of new efforts to identify challenges in the implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the mechanisms available to address them; and the impacts of emerging challenges on the application of the SPS Agreement.
3. At the end of the Work Programme, the WTO Secretariat prepared a factual summary on the process and discussions. At its November 2023 meeting, the Committee adopted the factual summary. The document was subsequently circulated as [G/SPS/70](#).
4. Paragraph 10 of the SPS Declaration mandated the SPS Committee to address the outcomes of the Work Programme and report on key findings and actions undertaken as a result of this work to the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13) with recommendations, as appropriate. In order to fulfil this mandate, the Facilitator of the Work Programme, the former Chairperson of the SPS Committee (Mr Tang-Kai Wang, of Chinese Taipei) prepared a draft report of the Work Programme, which was subsequently revised based on Members' comments. The latest draft of this report is contained in document [G/SPS/W/344/Rev.3](#).
5. At its November 2023 meeting, the Committee also agreed to finalize the text of the report to MC13 and adopt it by using a two-step process. Since a couple of delegations requested more time for internal procedures at the November meeting, the Chairperson urged them to complete them by the end of the month. After that, and as no comments were received, the Chairperson circulated the draft report, proposing its adoption by 15 December 2023. On that date, one Member indicated that it was not in a position to join the consensus for adoption. As such, the draft report was not adopted. At the time of presentation of this report, Members were hopeful that the report could be adopted and remained flexible in providing an opportunity for the Member to join the consensus.
6. Members engaged actively and constructively throughout the Work Programme, and heard from a wide variety of stakeholders, including government officials, private sector, and international organizations. During 2024, the Committee will continue its discussions on the implementation of the SPS Agreement in the context of the recently launched Sixth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement.
