

# PRESS RELEASE

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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### **Germany donates EUR150,000 for food, animal and plant health standards**

Germany has offered EUR150,000 (approximately CHF188,000) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

Germany's overall contribution to WTO trust funds has now reached CHF17 million.

This programme was set up to help developing countries improve their expertise and their capacity to analyze and implement international standards on food safety and animal and plant health. The STDF is a joint initiative of the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the World Organization for Animal Health, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

"Compliance with international standards can be an obstacle for developing countries to fully participate in the multilateral trading system. I welcome Germany's donation which will improve developing countries' analysis and implementation of international SPS standards" declared WTO Director General Pascal Lamy.

Germany's Ambassador to the WTO Reinhard Schweppe stated "Germany will continue to assist developing countries to improve their capacity to implement international SPS standards. This will enable them to gain and maintain market access which is crucial as trade can play an important role in growth, development and poverty reduction".

**END**