

**STRENGTHENING OF A RISK ANALYSIS GROUP
WITHIN COLOMBIA'S HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Statement by Colombia at the Meeting Held on 11 and 12 October 2006

The following communication, received on 12 October 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

1. Colombia wishes to inform the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the progress made in implementing the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, especially relating to Article 5 "*Assessment of Risk and Determination of the Appropriate Level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection*" as a basis for the issue of SPS measures.
2. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2950 of 25 October 2001, Colombia's health authority established the Risk Analysis and International Affairs Group.
3. Resolution No. 1277 of 15 June 2004 regulated administrative procedures for analysing the risk of plant pests and animal diseases.
4. In assessing the risk, Colombia follows the guidelines and recommendations of competent international organizations (OIE, IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius).
5. The National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) in document no. 3375, laid down obligations and responsibilities related to risk assessment and its strengthening within Colombia's health institution.
6. During the current year, a number of studies have been conducted on the following:
 - Analysis of the risk of introducing pests and diseases into Colombia, for example, Avian Influenza, West Nile Virus, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, *inter alia*;
 - assessment of the risk of importing animals, plants, their products and by-products, for example, Indian Gerbera, aquaculture products from various countries, dromedaries from Spain, semen and embryos from France, *inter alia*; and
 - technical documentation on various export products so that the importing country can undertake a risk assessment, for example, melon for Chile and Argentina, strawberries for Peru and Argentina, cotton for Peru, meat for the United States, equine animals for the European Union, *inter alia*.

7. Coordination and communication between the health authority and the international enquiry point have been improved as part of the strengthening process. On that basis, during 2006, 640 notifications from the WTO were received, analysed and disseminated.
