WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

**Committee on Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: Spanish

STRENGTHENING OF COLOMBIA'S SYSTEM OF
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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 Members of the Committee of the progress made in implementing the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the strengthening of its sanitary and phytosanitary system, as well as the latter's adaptation in the case of those products of interest to Colombia's international trade.

2.   In September 2005, the National Council for Economic and Social Policy approved document CONPES 3375 establishing the national agricultural health and food safety policy for the system of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and proposing the creation of a National Council for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to replace the National SPS Committee, and this was set up by Decree 2833 of 23 August 2006.

3.   This Council for SPS Measures is composed of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Social Welfare, the Environment, Trade, Industry and Tourism and the National Planning Department. Technical groups may be set up within the Council to deal with animal health, plant health and food safety.

4.   The following are the aims of the strategies contained in this national policy:

-        Adaptation and institutional strengthening of the national system for SPS measures;

-        improvement of the operating structure using a risk assessment-based approach; and

-        implementation of a transitional plan to allow the integration and adaptation of the national system of SPS measures so that it operates as efficiently as possible.

5.   In order to reach these objectives, Colombia estimates that investment of around US$80 million is needed for the period 2006-2010.

_____