

**PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING THE PROCESS OF  
INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION AND THE USE OF  
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Submission by the United States

1. Based on the Committee's discussions to date, it appears that a procedure to monitor the harmonization and use of international standards should be subject to the following parameters:
  - it should not impose excessive resource burdens on Members or on the WTO Secretariat;
  - it should not duplicate scientific or technical work that is more appropriately conducted in international standards-setting organizations; and
  - it should focus on trade problems of immediate and direct importance to Members.
2. The following proposal seeks, within the context of these parameters, to establish a pragmatic and effective procedure for fulfilling the mandate set out in Article 12.4 of the SPS Agreement.
3. Recommended Procedure:
  - (a) The Committee should endorse the Chairman's invitation to Members to submit, on a continuing basis, concrete examples of significant trade problems related to the harmonization and use of international standards, recommendations and guidelines.
  - (b) Members' submissions should describe the nature of each trade problem and note whether it is the result of:
    - (i) the non-use of an appropriate existing international standard, guideline or recommendation;
    - (ii) an out-dated, technically flawed, or in other ways inappropriate existing international standard, guideline or recommendation; or
    - (iii) the absence of an appropriate international standard, guideline or recommendation.
  - (c) The Committee should establish a standing agenda item to review the information submitted by Members under this procedure.

(d) Drawing on the information submitted, the Secretariat should prepare an annual report to the Committee on the trade problems identified under item 3(b), above. The Secretariat should transmit its report to the international organizations responsible for developing the relevant sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations.<sup>1</sup>

(e) At such time as the information submitted under item 3(b)(i) may be sufficient to indicate the existence of issues that have a major impact on international trade and are of widespread concern to Members, the Secretariat or individual Members may recommend that the Committee place such issues on its regular agenda or, as appropriate, coordinate multilateral consultations aimed at developing proposals for resolving such issues.

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<sup>1</sup>It is expected that Members will take this information into account, through their participation in these international organizations, in establishing those organizations' work priorities.