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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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## ACTIONS REGARDING SPS-RELATED PRIVATE STANDARDS

### COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, received on 15 October 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

#### Consideration for the implementation of Action 4

1. Belize's intervention at the June 2013 informal session on SPS-related private standards, Members will recall, drew the Committee's attention to the close linkages between all twelve recommendations developed by the working group.
2. We believe that discussion, on all twelve actions, would help to increase awareness on all aspects of SPS-related private standards, thereby making it easier to make significant advances on this particular agenda item.
3. As our recommendation had to do with enhancing the implementation of Action 4, we will focus on that at this point.

**Action 4: Members are encouraged to communicate with entities involved in SPS-related private standards in their territories to sensitize them to the issues raised in the SPS Committee and underline the importance of international standards established by the Codex, OIE and IPPC.**

4. We believe that this action could be enhanced if for such purposes Members consider the following:
  - as suggested by China, when communicating with these entities (involved in SPS-related private standards in their territories), that the application of a Code of Good Practice, similar to Annex 3 of the TBT Agreement, be encouraged for the preparation, adoption and application of standards, as it is open to acceptance by any standardizing body within the territory of a WTO Member, whether a governmental body or non-governmental body, or whether a governmental regional standardizing body or non-governmental regional standardizing body;
  - that entities be sensitized on issues raised in the SPS Committee, and for such purpose, the list of concerns, listed under paragraph 24 of Action 6 of document G/SPS/W/256, could be used as a guide, as these represent an accurate summary of the implications associated with the application of SPS-related private standards; and lastly
  - in underlining the importance of international standards established by the Codex, OIE and IPPC; efforts under this action will be greatly enhanced if carried out jointly with Action 5 of document G/SPS/55. Additionally, we believe that as proposed by China in their document G/SPS/GEN/1261, Members could also inform these entities of the "Six Principles" adopted by the TBT Committee, for the preparation of international standards, guidelines and recommendations. We believe that these principles, if applied, could contribute to providing a mechanism that would assist in addressing concerns related to SPS-related private standards.