



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS
OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION**

DRAFT SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT¹

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. At its meeting of 15-16 October 1997, the SPS Committee adopted a provisional procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations, as provided for in Articles 3.5 and 12.4 of the SPS Agreement. The Committee extended the provisional monitoring procedure in 1999, 2001, and 2003, and revised the procedure in October 2004.² In 2006, the Committee agreed to extend the provisional procedure indefinitely, and to review its operation as an integral part of the periodic review of the operation and implementation of the Agreement under Article 12.7.³ This procedure was reviewed as part of the Third Review of the Agreement⁴, and will be reviewed again in 2014 in the context of the Fourth Review.

1.2. The Committee has previously adopted fifteen annual reports on the monitoring procedure.⁵ These reports summarize several standards-related issues that the Committee has considered and the responses received from the relevant standard-setting organizations.

2 PROPOSED REVISION TO THE MONITORING PROCEDURE (G/SPS/W/268)

2.1. In June 2013, Argentina and Chile reiterated their proposal that the SPS Committee's monitoring procedure adequately reflect how international standards are used by Members.⁶ Argentina noted that the topic of monitoring the use of international standards could be addressed in the context of the Fourth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement.

2.2. In October 2013, Argentina recalled its proposal and suggested that this topic be addressed in the context of the Fourth Review and, in particular that it could be included in the catalogue of tools available to WTO Members for the management of SPS issues proposed by Canada.⁷

3 NEW ISSUES

3.1. Since the adoption of the Fifteenth Annual Report⁸, no new issues were set forth by Members.

4 PREVIOUS ISSUES

4.1. Since the adoption of the Fifteenth Annual Report, there has been no discussion of issues previously raised under this procedure.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the position of Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

² G/SPS/14, G/SPS/17, G/SPS/25 and G/SPS/11/Rev.1.

³ G/SPS/40.

⁴ G/SPS/53.

⁵ These were circulated as G/SPS/13, G/SPS/16, G/SPS/18, G/SPS/21, G/SPS/28, G/SPS/31, G/SPS/37, G/SPS/42, G/SPS/45, G/SPS/49, G/SPS/51, G/SPS/54, G/SPS/56, G/SPS/59, and G/SPS/60.

⁶ Argentina's written proposal, contained in document G/SPS/W/268, was circulated in July 2012.

⁷ G/SPS/W/271.

⁸ G/SPS/60.

5 RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE RELEVANT STANDARD-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS

5.1. At the October 2013 meeting of the Committee, the IPPC reported on the activities of the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS), including a general survey on the IPPC and 32 standards.⁹ The IPPC requested contracting parties to complete a survey on pest reporting and regulated pest listing as soon as possible, as this information would help identify ways that the IPPC Secretariat and the IRSS program could better assist countries to fulfil related IPPC obligations. The IRSS website and help desk had been launched and IPPC was seeking donors for translation of existing IRSS analyses, tools and resources, as well as donors for the second 3-year cycle of the IRSS.

⁹ G/SPS/GEN/1284.