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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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DECLARATION OF MOROCCO AS A COUNTRY FREE FROM AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

COMMUNICATION FROM MOROCCO

This communication, dated 12 June 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Morocco.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Morocco hereby advises WTO Members that on the recommendation of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, on 26 May 2015 the OIE World Assembly of Delegates accepted that Morocco should be recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a country free from African Horse Sickness in accordance with provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

2. This recognition was based on the evidence submitted to the OIE by the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA), which was thoroughly examined by specialized experts appointed by the OIE.

3. This disease-free status was obtained thanks to the efforts of the Moroccan veterinary services which, a few years ago, introduced a sound management strategy to eradicate this disease. The achievement bears eloquent testimony to the smooth functioning, the professionalism and the efficiency of our services.

4. This status will now enable us to trade Moroccan horses with our partners more freely and without the sanitary constraints associated with African horse sickness, and to participate in major international horse events. At the same time, it provides an opportunity for Moroccan professionals to expand their trade in horses and explore other destinations.
