

**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROCESSES IN ECUADOR

COMMUNICATION FROM ECUADOR

The following communication, dated 6 May 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Ecuador.

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1. The Ecuadorian Government wishes to inform Members that, in the context of the global COVID-19 health emergency, in order to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure continuity in foreign trade procedures, the Agency for Plant and Animal Health Regulation and Control has approved Resolution No. 0047 of 30 March 2020 outlining the measures to be taken in organic certification processes in Ecuador while the health emergency persists.
 2. The purpose of these measures is to ensure continued access to organic certification for operators, while also protecting their health and that of the certification bodies' technical and administrative staff.
 3. The guidelines set forth in Resolution No. 0047 cover the inspection and certification of organic production in Ecuador. They must be observed for duration of the COVID-19 health emergency in order to avoid negative repercussions on the certification bodies' accreditation process and to maintain operators' organic certification.
 4. These measures also ensure compliance with the requirements imposed at a national level under the nationwide state of emergency, declared on 16 March 2020 by the President of the Republic following the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic.¹

¹ Article 6(c) of Executive Decree No. 1017 of 16 March 2020 provides: "(...) Industries, chains and commercial activities in the areas of food and health, basic service providers, the entire export chain, the agricultural industry, animal husbandry and animal care will continue to operate."