



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE WORKSHOP ON RISK ANALYSIS:
RISK ASSESSMENT, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND RISK COMMUNICATION**

MONDAY, 12 JULY – TUESDAY, 13 JULY 2021

**WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA
PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM**

Note by the Secretariat¹

PROGRAMME

The SPS Committee agreed to hold a workshop on risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication at the margins of the July 2021 Committee meeting, based on a proposal submitted by Canada in the context of the Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The workshop will focus on risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication, building on the Thematic SPS Workshop on Risk Analysis, held on 13-14 October 2014; and the SPS Thematic Session on Risk Communication, held on 15 July 2015.

The workshop will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12-13 July 2021, beginning at 10 a.m. CEST. The workshop will also be accessible virtually on Zoom. Interpretation in the three official languages will be available. The video recording will be made available on the WTO website after the workshop.

A dedicated website will be made available on the WTO SPS gateway, with relevant information on the workshop and useful resources on risk analysis. Participants will be invited to familiarise themselves with the tools and resources made available. In particular, participants who may not be familiar with risk assessment are encouraged to complete the WTO eLearning module on risk assessment and/or review other available materials on risk assessment in advance of the workshop.

The Secretariat is circulating this revised version of the programme² after taking into consideration comments received by the deadline of 23 April 2021. Members are invited to submit additional comments and suggest speakers by **Monday, 7 June 2021**.

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

² A first draft of the programme was circulated by Canada in document [G/SPS/GEN/1769](#), and its subsequent revision ([G/SPS/GEN/1769/Rev.1](#)). Members were invited to submit comments on the revised draft programme and suggest speakers by 23 April 2021.

Chairperson: Mr Gregory McDonald, Chairperson of the SPS Committee

MONDAY 12 JULY 2021

1 OPENING SESSION (10:00 – 10:30)

1.1 Opening remarks

Speaker: Mr Gregory McDonald, Chairperson of the SPS Committee

1.2 Workshop overview and objectives

Overview of the workshop and its objectives. This session will also review basic concepts of risk assessment and look at risk assessment developments over the years.

Speakers:

- WTO Secretariat, *Overview of the workshop and its objectives*
- Video (TBC), *Risk analysis over the years*

1.3 What the SPS Agreement says about risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication

Review of the provisions of the SPS Agreement, Committee guidance and relevant dispute settlement reports as they relate to risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

2 RISK ASSESSMENT (10:30 – 13:00)

Provide an overview of and explore key concepts of risk assessment, including elements such as hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment, consequence assessment, and risk characterization, and related issues concerning the implementation of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement. Additionally, share experiences on building technical capacities in risk assessment, including currently available training tools, which can help participants understand and manage some of the challenges associated with risk assessment, such as obtaining and analyzing information required for conducting a risk assessment.

2.1 Roundtable – Relevant international standards and other international tools

Provide an overview of relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other international tools relating to risk assessment. Share capacity building tools.

Moderator: TBC

Speakers:

- Codex Alimentarius
- **Mr Francisco D'Alessio**, Deputy Head, Standards Department, OIE Secretariat
- FAO-OIE-WHO Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (TBC)

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

2.2 Roundtable – Member perspectives

Explore and discuss Member perspectives and experiences related to risk assessment, including experiences related to building capacity and tools currently available to help countries strengthen their technical capacities in risk assessment.

Moderator: *TBC*

Speakers:

- Canada (*TBC*)
- Norway (*TBC*)
- **Dr Lei Zhang**, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment
- **Ms Barbara Gallani**, Head of Communication Engagement and Cooperation Department, European Food Safety Authority
- **Ms Anastasia Alvizou**, Deputy Head of Unit D1, European Commission Directorate General Health and Food Safety
- **Ms Alison Neeley**, USDA-APHIS-PPQ Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

Informal discussion (13:00 – 14:00) (TBC): Participants will have an opportunity to interact informally and raise follow-up questions with speakers on the topic of risk assessment in Zoom breakout rooms. One breakout room will be available to exchange with the relevant international organizations and a second breakout room to exchange with Members that have made presentations. Discussions in these breakout rooms will not be recorded; the rooms will provide an opportunity for informal conversations. Interpretation will not be provided.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT (15:00 – 18:00)

Explore the concept of risk management, including the evaluation of risk management options, implementation, monitoring and review, and related issues concerning the implementation of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement. Additionally, challenges with risk management can be explored, such as identifying appropriate types of SPS risks to consider for risk management and determining, identifying and evaluating risk management options.

3.1 Roundtable – Risk management and international standards

Explore the use of relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations in risk management. This session will also highlight the difference between activities conducted by international standard-setting bodies and the competence of, and actions conducted by, national authorities.

Moderator: *TBC*

Speakers:

- Codex Alimentarius
- **Mr Masahiro Sai**, Senior Researcher (Head of Section), Risk Analysis Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan and Steward of the IPPC Standards Committee
- **Ms Joanne Wilson**, New Zealand and Steward of the IPPC Standards Committee
- **Mr Francisco D'Alessio**, Deputy Head, Standards Department, OIE Secretariat

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

3.2 Roundtable – Member perspectives

Sharing of successes, challenges, considerations, impacts and best practices related to risk management. This session will focus on Member perspectives. It will also include short video clips reflecting the perspective of various private sector actors.

Video clips: *Private sector perspective (TBC)*

Moderator: *TBC*

Speakers:

- **Mr Johnny Marchan Peña**, Executive President, National Fisheries Health Agency (SANIPES)
- **Mr Rafael Mafra**, Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture - Agricultural Attaché, Brazilian Mission to the WTO

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021**4 RISK COMMUNICATION (10:00 – 13:00)**

Explore the concept of risk communication, including developing the goals for a risk communication plan, how to develop a risk communication plan, how to ensure through internal and external communications that the results of the risk assessment, risk management options, and assumptions and uncertainty of the risk assessment are clearly communicated to internal and external audiences/stakeholders. Explore the importance of forming trust, working with transparency, and developing confidence in regulatory decisions; discuss strategies to overcome challenges associated with significant institutional, capacity, and technical constraints; and related issues concerning the implementation of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement.

4.1 Relevant international standards

Explore the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations relating to risk communication and the role of the international standard-setting bodies in risk communication.

Speakers:

- Codex Alimentarius
- **Ms Sarah Brunel**, IPPC Secretariat
- **Mr Francisco D'Alessio**, Deputy Head, Standards Department, OIE Secretariat

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

4.2 Sharing of successes, challenges, considerations, impacts and best practices related to risk communication

Explore and discuss Member, Observer, academia, non-governmental organization, and private sector perspectives and experiences related to risk communication.

4.2.1 Internal risk communication

This session will focus on exploring and discussing effective communication between and among risk assessors and risk managers.

Speakers: *TBC*

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

4.2.2 Translating risk assessment and risk management into communication messages

This session will focus on experiences with translating risk assessment and risk management into communication messages, including communicating uncertainty and leveraging new communication tools. The session will also explore and discuss effective ways to target communication, who are the audiences, what is the government's responsibility and role in risk communication, and when to communicate.

Speakers:

- **Ms Andrée-Anne Girard**, Senior Communications Advisor, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- **Ms Yuqiong Deng**, Section Chief, General Administration of Customs, China. *Risk communication helps restore gelatin trade between China and the EU*
- **Ms Barbara Gallani**, Head, Communication Engagement and Cooperation Department, European Food Safety Authority
- **Ms Anastasia Alvizou**, Deputy Head of Unit D1, European Commission Directorate General Health and Food Safety
- WHO (TBC)
- FAO (TBC)

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

Informal discussion (13:00 – 14:00) (TBC): Participants will have an opportunity to interact informally and raise follow-up questions with speakers on the topic of risk communication in Zoom breakout rooms. One breakout room will be available to exchange with the relevant international organizations and a second breakout room to exchange with Members that have made presentations. Discussions in these breakout rooms will not be recorded; the rooms will provide an opportunity for informal conversations. Interpretation will not be provided.

5 CASE STUDIES AND INTERACTIVE SESSION (15:00 – 18:00)

5.1 Case studies

Explore case studies of practical examples of experiences undertaking (i) risk assessment, (ii) risk management, and (iii) risk communication for sanitary and phytosanitary issues in order to examine how these three components of risk analysis are interlinked and where there may be common challenges with the application of these concepts.

Speakers:

- **Mr Alan MacLeod**, Pest Risk Analyst, Risk and Horizon Scanning Team, Plant and Animal Health Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
- European Union (TBC)

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

5.2 Interactive session (TBC)

Active participation in facilitator-led interactive activity. Participants will have the possibility to complete practical exercises led by a facilitator to explore practical aspects of risk assessment, risk management, or risk communication. *(This session is to be confirmed.)*

6 CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Gregory McDonald, Chairperson of the SPS Committee
