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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

INDIA'S REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATE FOR NON-GM ORIGIN AND GM-FREE STATUS – SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERN 501

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 26 March 2024, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 20-22 March 2024 WTO SPS Committee, and is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the <u>United States of America</u>.

- 1. The United States remains deeply concerned with India's Order mandating "non-GM (genetically modified) origin and GM-free certificates" for certain agricultural imports into India, notified on 2 September 2020. We are taking the floor for the tenth and likely final time in this Committee to share our concerns.
- 2. We are extremely disappointed that India maintains this measure, despite extensive efforts to engage constructively by the United States and the international community, including in SPS, TBT, and CTG meetings, in bilateral engagements, and through letters.
- 3. India did not meet the repeated requests of trading partners to provide the rationale, or a scientific or risk basis, for requiring a non-GM certificate on a per-consignment basis for each of the 24 crops named in the Order.
- 4. We ask once more that India meet its international and bilateral obligations. The United States remains ready to engage in meaningful dialogue with India.
- 5. The United States also remains ready to consider other forms of collaboration with WTO Members who have registered concerns similar to our own.