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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**ANNUAL OVERVIEW – IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS AND  
SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

*Revision*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. At its meeting on 15-16 March 2000, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Committee) requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper summarizing the specific trade concerns (STCs) that had been brought to the Committee's attention since 1995.<sup>2</sup> Since then, the Secretariat has revised document [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) annually to include new information provided by Members.

1.2. Similarly, at the October [2007 Workshop on Transparency](#), the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual overview of the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.<sup>3</sup> Since then, the Secretariat has revised document [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) annually to provide an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency obligations contained in the SPS Agreement (Article 7 and Annex B) and of the Committee's Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement.<sup>4</sup>

1.3. The latest revision of the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement ([G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), hereafter the "Recommended Transparency Procedures") was circulated on 16 January 2023. This "technical" revision does not include any substantive changes to the text. It incorporates updates based on changes in the online tools (namely the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#)).

1.4. [Part A](#) of the present document provides an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency obligations found in the SPS Agreement and [Part B](#) contains information on STCs. Additionally, [Part C](#) of the document covers other transparency-related aspects, including the proposals made in the context of the [Sixth Review](#) of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement, the [transparency recommendations of the Fifth Review](#) adopted in 2020<sup>5</sup>, detailed information on [improved SPS IT tools](#) and the [transparency-related work](#) of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

1.5. In preparing this document, the Secretariat has largely relied on the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Among other functions, the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) is the single entry point to search specialized and detailed information on SPS (and TBT) notifications, STCs, national notification authorities (NNAs) and national enquiry points (NEPs) contact information, as well as other documents. It allows

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> [G/SPS/R/18](#), para. 20.

<sup>3</sup> See [G/SPS/R/47](#), para. 44, for the recommendations arising from the [2007 Workshop on Transparency](#). See also footnote 6 of [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#) requesting the Secretariat to provide an annual report on the level of implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement and of the recommended transparency procedures.

<sup>4</sup> Since 2021, the information previously contained in [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) and revisions has been merged into a single document.

<sup>5</sup> See [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

for advanced searches according to specific criteria and facilitates the creation of custom reports and graphs, which can be shared with interested stakeholders. Most of the underlying data for the analysis contained in this document is publicly available and searchable through the Platform. Detailed information is available in [Part C](#) of the present document.

1.6. The [Members' transparency toolkit](#) webpage is regularly updated to streamline the information available. Among other features, it includes a [quiz](#) for users to self-assess their knowledge on SPS transparency-related matters.

1.7. One key conclusion that can be extracted from this document is that, overall, there is a **high level of implementation of the SPS transparency obligations** by WTO Members. Since 1995: 135 Members (82% of membership) have submitted at least one notification; 160 (98%) and 162 Members (99%) have provided contact information for their SPS NNAs and NEPs, respectively.

1.8. In addition, for 2023, the following **5 key points** can be highlighted:

- a) A total of 65 Members submitted a total **1,994 notifications** of new or modified SPS measures (**compared to a record high of 2,172 in 2022**), including addenda and corrigenda to both regular and emergency notifications.
- b) Two least developed country (LDC) Members, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**, are among the top 10 notifiers of regular notifications in 2023.
- c) The highest share (73%) of regular notifications submitted refer to **food safety**; 89% of the emergency notifications submitted refer to **animal health**.
- d) Members discussed **67 STCs**, including **17 new** concerns; **20 Members (12%)** raised at least one STC.
- e) **Two STCs** were reported as **resolved** in 2023. A total of 311 (54%) STCs have been reported as resolved or partially resolved since 1995.

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## 2 PART A - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

2.1. Part A of the present document provides an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency provisions contained in the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures in document [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), with a focus on 2023. It does not include information on areas where the Secretariat is not directly involved (such as publication of a notice of a regulation at an early stage, Members' response to requests for documents or other information, provision of comments to notifications, and of the response to these comments by the notifying Member, among others).

### 2.1 Designation of national notification authorities and enquiry points

2.2. Paragraph 10 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement requires Members to designate a single central government authority as responsible for the implementation of notification procedures. This agency is referred to as the SPS national notification authority (NNA). As of 31 December 2023, 160 (98%) Members out of 164 had designated such an agency. The Members that have not designated NNAs are all LDCs.<sup>6</sup> In addition, one observer government has designated an NNA.

2.3. Paragraph 3 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement requires that each Member establish a national enquiry point (NEP) responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions and of relevant documents. As of 31 December 2023, 162 Members (99%) had provided the contact information of their NEP. One developing country and one LDC have not yet established an NEP. Thirty-four Members have identified more than one SPS NEP. A total of 31 Members have indicated that their NNA and NEP are the same institution. In addition, four observer governments have provided the WTO with the contact information of their NEP.

2.4. In 2023, 30 Members updated their NNA and/or NEP contact details, available through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Through this Platform, users with notification admin rights are responsible for ensuring that the contact details of domestic NNAs and NEPs are up to date (see [Section 4.3.1.1.2](#)).<sup>7</sup> It can be useful to have at least two staff members trained in NNA/NEP operations since this allows for absences and commitments of staff to other duties, as recommended in the [Practical Manual for SPS National Notification Authorities and National Enquiry Points](#). Whenever possible, Members are encouraged to use an institutional email address rather than a personal one.<sup>8</sup>

### 2.2 Submission of notifications

2.5. Under the SPS Agreement, notifications are used to inform other Members about new or modified regulations that may significantly affect trade. Paragraphs 5 to 8 of Annex B, as well as the Recommended Transparency Procedures, elaborate on the notification procedures Members are to follow. For ease of reference, the specific sub-topics highlighted below follow the order of items that are contained in the regular and emergency notification formats. The online submission of notifications further improves the quality of the information provided, increasing efficiency and allowing for more thorough searches. As indicated above, this functionality is currently accessible for users with relevant rights through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)).

#### 2.2.1 Types of notifications

2.6. The two main types of notifications are regular notifications (of new or modified draft SPS regulations) and emergency notifications (of regulations adopted when urgent problems of health protection arise or threaten to arise for a Member). In addition, addenda, corrigenda, revisions or supplements can be issued subsequent to an original regular or emergency notification.<sup>9</sup> An addendum is used to provide additional information or changes to an original notification, for example if the products covered by the proposed regulation have been modified, if the comment

<sup>6</sup> The categories of level of development rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO Reference Database for analytical purposes ([ldb@wto.org](mailto:ldb@wto.org)). They can be consulted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) by clicking on "Facts & figures", "Definitions of groups" in the top menu bar.

<sup>7</sup> See document [G/SPS/GEN/2163-G/TBT/GEN/363](#) for more information on the different levels of access for ePing users.

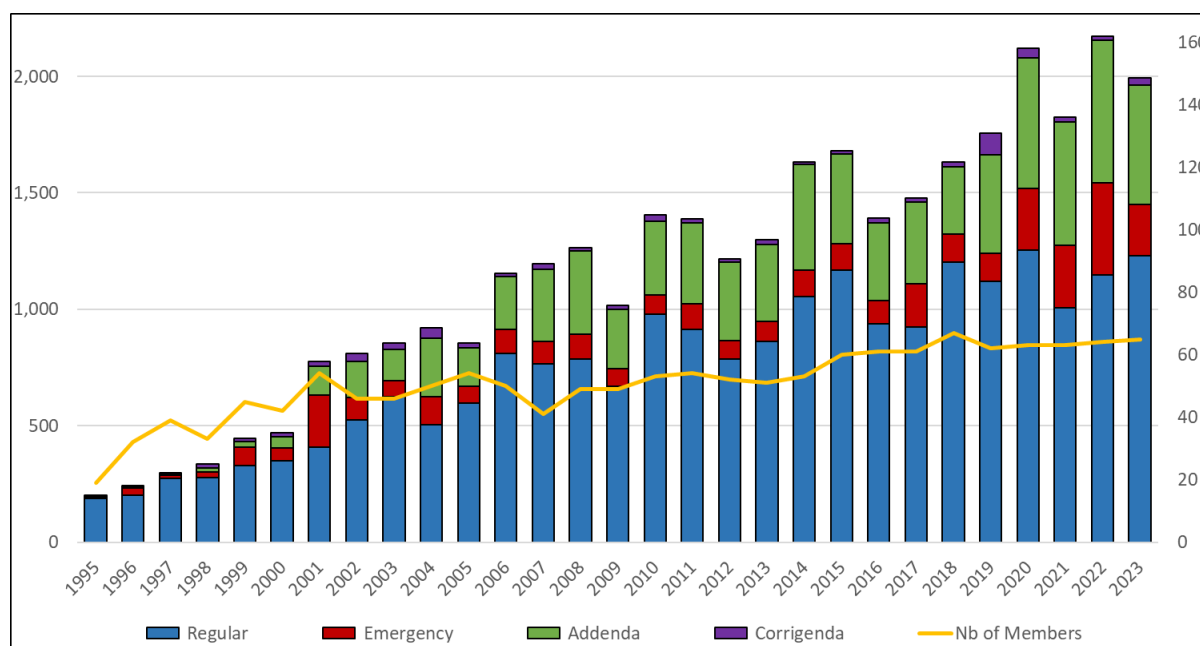
<sup>8</sup> Further recommendations can be found in the [Practical Manual for SPS NNAs and NEPs](#).

<sup>9</sup> See the [Members' transparency toolkit](#) and the Recommended Transparency Procedures ([G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#)) for further elaboration on the different types of notifications.

period has been extended, or if a notified measure has entered into force. A corrigendum is used to correct an error in an original notification such as incorrect address details. A revision is used to replace an existing notification, for example if a notified draft regulation was substantially redrafted or if a notification contained a large number of errors. All types of notifications can be directly filled in and submitted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)).

2.7. [Chart A.1](#) shows the number of regular and emergency notifications (including addenda and corrigenda) submitted per year since 1995. As of 31 December 2023, Members had submitted<sup>10</sup> 21,899 regular notifications (including 209 revisions), 3,414 emergency notifications (including 15 revisions), 7,886 addenda and 626 corrigenda, reaching a grand total of 33,855 notifications. Despite punctual decreases in some years, the global tendency shows an upward trend in the total number of notifications submitted per year, reaching in 2022 a historical record number of 2,172 notifications. In 2023, Members submitted 1,231 regular notifications (including 9 revisions), 220 emergency notifications, 510 addenda and 32 corrigenda, adding up to a total of 1,994 notifications. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the number of regular notifications submitted, from 1,147 in 2022 to 1,231 in 2023 (7% increase), and a decrease in the number of emergency notifications, from 396 in 2022 to 220 in 2023 (44% decrease). The overall number of addenda submitted decreased from 621 in 2022 to 510 in 2023 (18% decrease) (see [Section 2.2.10](#)). The monthly average of notifications decreased from 181 in 2022 to 166 in 2023.

**Chart A.1 – Number of regular and emergency notifications (including revisions), addenda and corrigenda for both types, and number of Members who have submitted at least one notification, per year**



2.8. In June 2002, the SPS Committee adopted a special format and recommended procedures for the notification of determination of the recognition of equivalence of sanitary or phytosanitary measures. As of 31 December 2023, there have been [11 equivalence notifications](#) circulated by Panama (one, in 2007), the Dominican Republic (one, in 2008), the United States (five in 2019 and three in 2022) and New Zealand (one, in 2023). A two-part Thematic Session on Equivalence was held in October 2018 and March 2019 within the framework of the Fifth Review.<sup>11</sup>

2.9. In April 2004, the Secretariat established a mechanism for Members to inform each other of the availability of unofficial translations of notified SPS measures into one of the working languages

<sup>10</sup> For this Note, submission refers to the date of distribution of the notification by the Secretariat.

<sup>11</sup> The programmes of parts 1 and 2 of the Thematic Session are contained in [G/SPS/GEN/1640/Rev.1](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1675/Rev.1](#), respectively, and the reports in [G/SPS/R/93](#) and [G/SPS/R/94](#). Presentations of both sessions are available at: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/spse/events\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/spse/events_e.htm).

of the WTO. These are submitted in the form of supplements to the original notification. As of 31 December 2023, [19 supplement notifications](#) had been circulated. None have been submitted since 2015. The availability of translations has periodically been discussed in the SPS Committee under transparency-related matters.<sup>12</sup> Interestingly, the same mechanism for sharing translations of notified TBT regulations, launched in January 2008, has resulted in [251 supplement notifications](#), although, similarly to SPS, it has not been used since 2016. In this context, it is worth highlighting that Members can also share unofficial translations through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), although it has not been used for that purpose yet (see [Section 4.3.1](#)).

2.10. In October 2004, the SPS Committee adopted a procedure to enhance transparency of special and differential treatment (S&D) in favour of developing Members, which included an addendum notification format to inform the Committee of a Member's decision on whether and how S&D may be provided in reference to a specific request. The procedure and addendum notification format were subsequently revised in December 2009 ([G/SPS/33/Rev.1](#)), and the notification format was incorporated in the [Recommended Transparency Procedures](#) for ease of reference. No S&D notifications have ever been circulated by WTO Members under this procedure. All notification types are summarized in [Table A.1](#).

**Table A.1 – SPS notifications submitted by WTO Members (including equivalence and supplement notifications)**

Type of notification	Since 1995	In 2023	Variation since 2022
Regular (incl. revisions)	21,899	1,231	+7%
Emergency (incl. revisions)	3,414	220	-44%
Addenda to regular	7,127	466	-16%
Addenda to emergency	759	44	-25%
Corrigenda to regular	550	26	+86%
Corrigenda to emergency	76	6	+100%
Equivalence notifications	11	1	+1
Supplement notifications	19	0	-
Total	33,855	1,994	

## 2.2.2 Notifying Members

2.11. As of 31 December 2023, 135 Members (82% of the membership) had submitted at least one notification to the WTO. In 2023, Bangladesh and Vanuatu submitted their first SPS notifications. Several EU member States have not submitted notifications; however, most SPS measures are notified by the European Union on behalf of its member States.<sup>13,14</sup> In addition, 12 developing Members and 10 LDCs have not yet submitted any notification. In 2023, 65 Members submitted at least one notification. The number of Members submitting notifications each year has considerably increased since 1995 and has remained relatively stable over the last few years ([Chart A.1](#)).

2.12. Since 2001, the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) has been submitting joint notifications, and in 2022 the East African Community (EAC) started submitting joint SPS (and TBT) notifications through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Joint submission of notifications further improves regional coordination and streamlines work for both Members and the Secretariat. In 2023 other Members have explored this option to streamline their work.

2.13. [Charts A.2](#) and [A.3](#) show the number of regular and emergency notifications (including addenda and corrigenda), respectively, and the percentage of notifications by Members' development status. [Chart A.2](#) shows that the share of regular notifications submitted by developing Members has been rising since 2000 and, since 2008, is higher than that of regular notifications submitted by developed Members. The share of notifications from LDCs is overall low, but has been increasing over the last few years, reaching a historical maximum of 19% in 2023, mainly due to

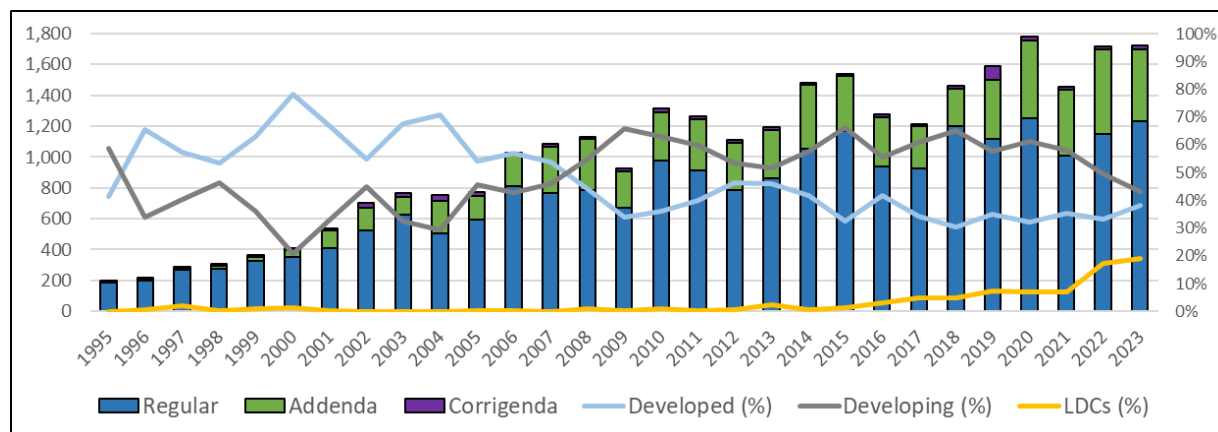
<sup>12</sup> See for example the reports of the Fourth Review and the [2017 Workshop on Transparency](#) in [G/SPS/62](#) and [G/SPS/R/89](#), respectively.

<sup>13</sup> See [G/SPS/GEN/456](#) for notification procedures for the European Union and its member States.

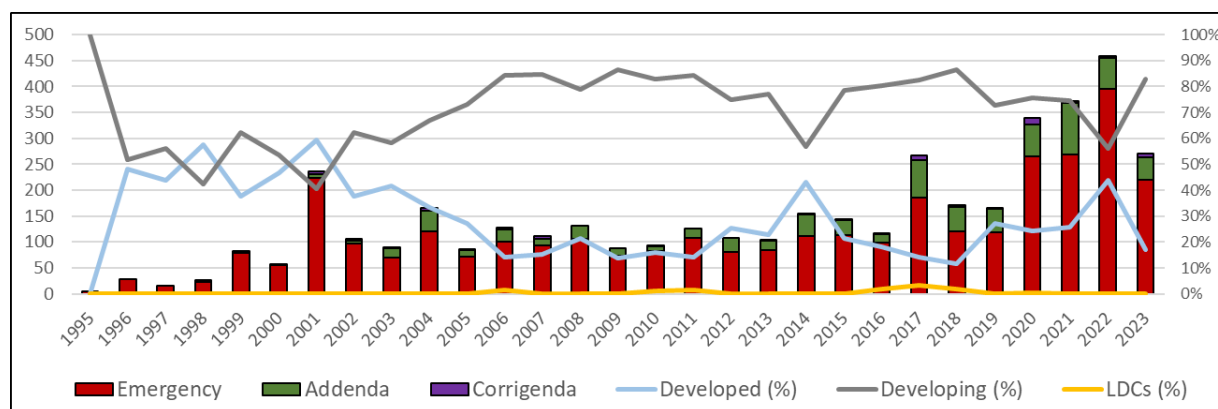
<sup>14</sup> The information provided by the European Union covers its 28 member States from 1 July 2013 until 31 January 2020. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. The European Union and the United Kingdom communicated that during the transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020, the European Union SPS regime continued to apply in the United Kingdom. See documents [WT/GC/206](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1767](#).

the high number of notifications submitted by Tanzania (98) and Uganda (96) (see [Chart A.8](#)), as well as the joint notifications submitted by the EAC. [Chart A.3](#) shows that the percentage of emergency notifications submitted by developing Members has been greater than 50% since 2002. Overall, the difference in percentage of emergency notifications between developed and developing Members is much larger than in the case of regular notifications. While in 2022 this difference was considerably reduced, mainly due to the high number of emergency notifications submitted by very few developed Members in relation to avian influenza, in 2023 we again see the general pattern due to an increased share of notifications on animal diseases submitted by developing countries, mostly related to animal diseases including avian influenza.

**Chart A.2 – Number of regular notifications and percentage by development status**



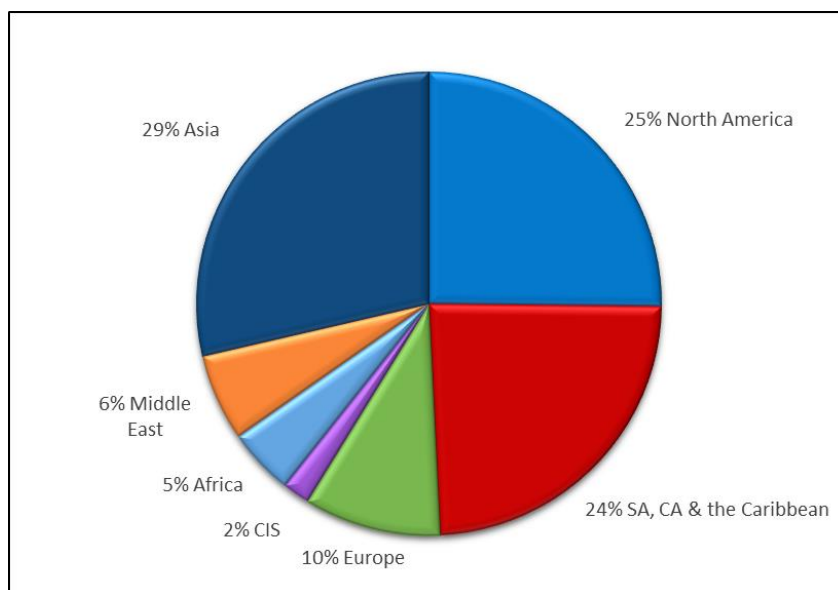
**Chart A.3 – Number of emergency notifications and percentage by development status**



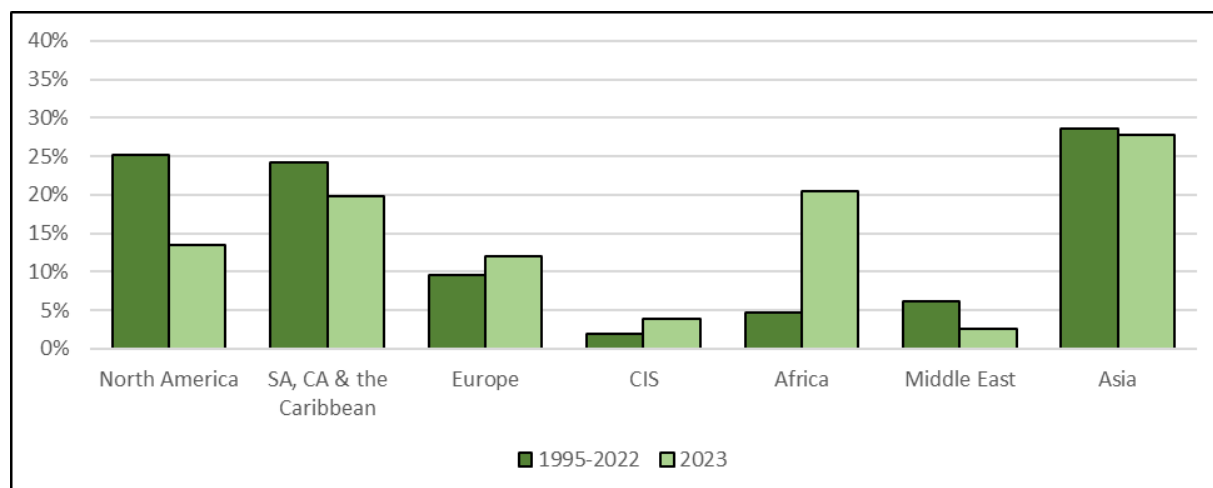
2.14. Looking at the geographic regions from which the notifications submitted since the year 1995 originate, [Chart A.4](#) shows that the largest share of notifications come from Asia (29%), followed by the North America region (25%) and then by South and Central America and the Caribbean (24%).<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The geographical groupings used rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO Reference Database for analytical purposes ([ldb@wto.org](mailto:ldb@wto.org)). The same groupings are used in the WTO Annual Reports. They can be consulted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) by clicking on "Facts & figures", "Definitions of groups" in the top menu bar.



**Chart A.4 – Notifications by geographical region since 1995**

2.15. When comparing the percentage of notifications submitted in 2023 to the average submitted by the different regions between 1995 and 2022 ([Chart A.5](#)), we can observe a striking increase in the case of Africa. Since 2020, several African Members feature among the top 10 notifiers each year and this trend continues in 2023. While notifications submitted by African countries until 2022 represent about 5% of the total, in 2023 this figure rose to 20%, mainly due to notifications submitted by Tanzania and Uganda, as well as the joint notifications by the EAC (see [Section 2.2.2](#) and [Chart A.8](#)). Overall, we can observe a slight increase in the percentage of notifications submitted by Europe (from 10% until the end of 2022 to 12% in 2023) and CIS States (from 2% to 4%). In contrast, a reduction can be observed in the case of North America (from 25% to 13% until the end of 2022), South America, Central America and the Caribbean (from 24% to 20%) and the Middle East region (from 6% to 3%).

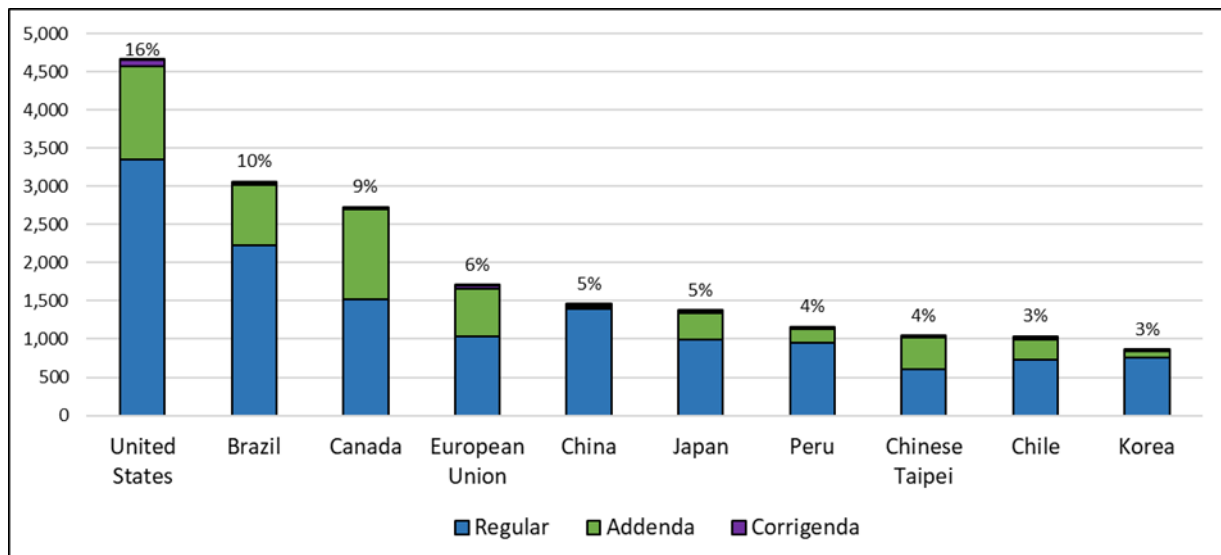
**Chart A.5 – Comparison between notifications submitted by geographical region in the period 1995-2022 and in 2023**

2.16. The Members who have submitted the greatest number of notifications (regular and emergency) since 1995 are listed in [Charts A.6](#) and [A.7](#), while the Members that have submitted the greatest number of notifications in 2023 are listed in [Charts A.8](#) and [A.9](#). In all four charts, bars show the number of notifications by type and values above the bars represent the corresponding percentage with respect to the total number of notifications submitted.

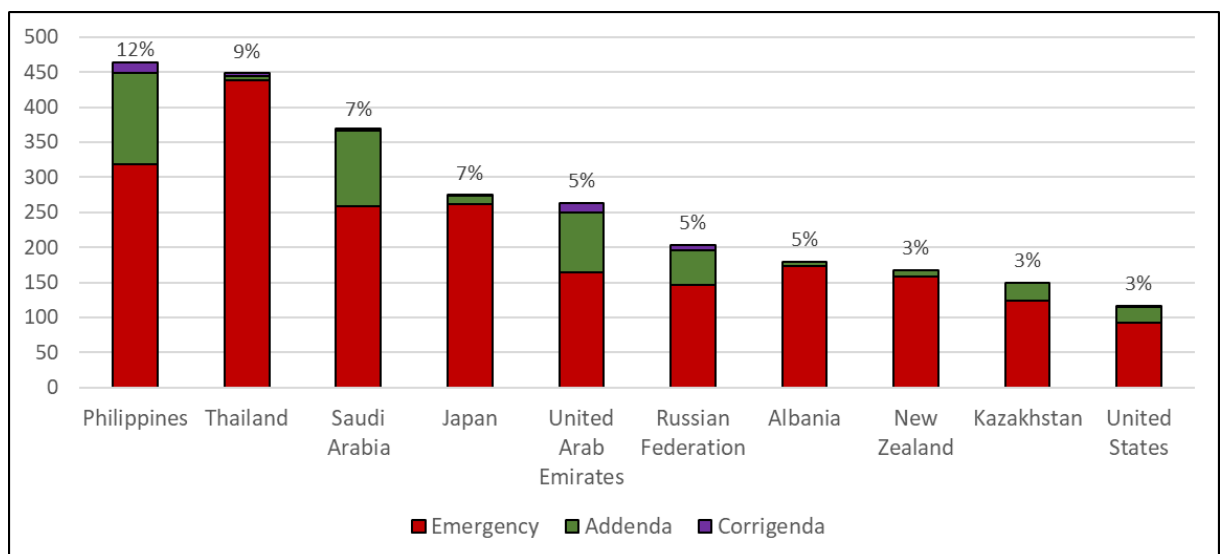


2.17. It is interesting to note that, while the top 10 notifying Members have mostly been stable since 1995, in the last few years, two African LDCs have been submitting high numbers of notifications and are now among the top 20 Members notifying regular notifications (Uganda, 15<sup>o</sup>, and Tanzania, 18<sup>o</sup>). This could suggest that these Members may have successfully put in place an internal coordination system that ensures the sustained fulfilment of the SPS transparency obligations.

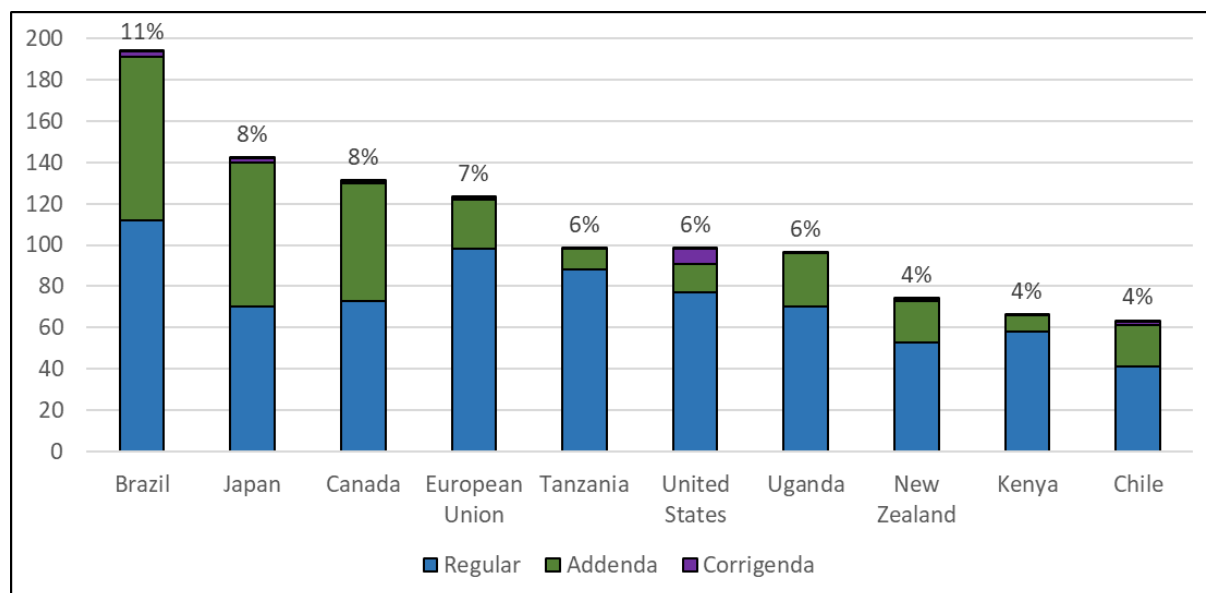
**Chart A.6 - Ten Members who have submitted the most regular notifications since 1995 (percentage with respect to total of regular notifications)**



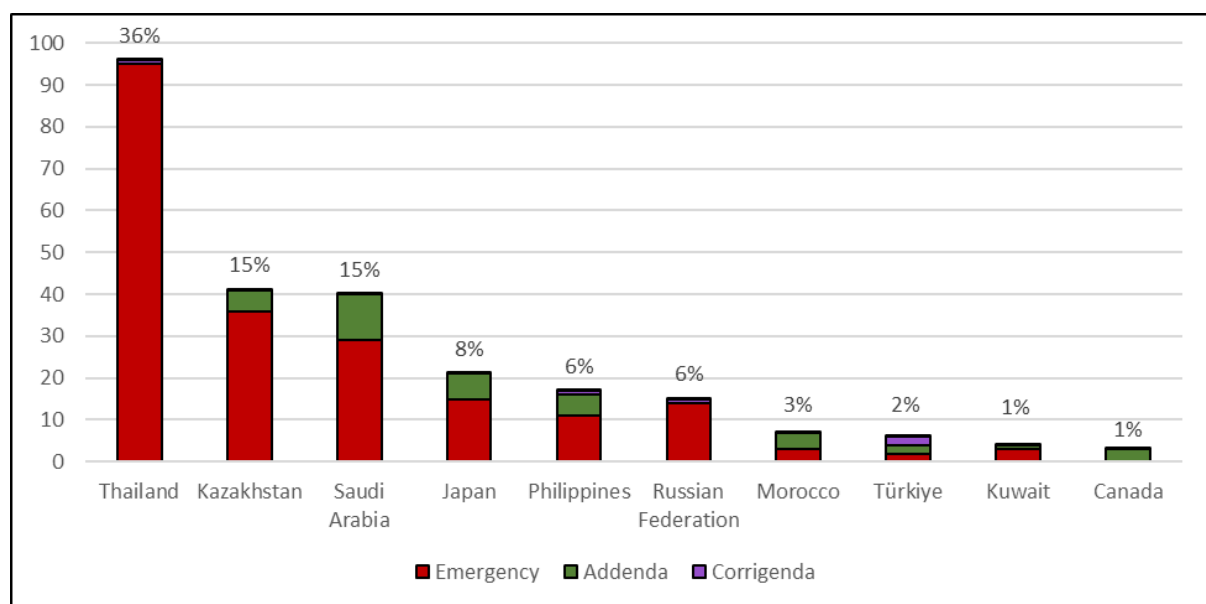
**Chart A.7 - Ten Members who have submitted the most emergency notifications since 1995 (percentage with respect to total of emergency notifications)**



**Chart A.8 - Members which have submitted the most regular notifications in 2023 (percentage with respect to total of regular notifications)**



**Chart A.9 - Members which have submitted the most emergency notifications in 2023 (percentage with respect to total of emergency notifications)**



2.18. In 2023, Brazil submitted 11% of all regular notifications circulated ([Chart A.8](#)). Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya are among the top 10 notifying Members, some of them for several consecutive years. It is also important to note that Burundi and Rwanda have each submitted 3% of the regular notifications circulated in 2023. This is mostly due to the joint submission of notifications by the EAC, suggesting that joint notifications by regional groupings can further increase transparency and improve the fulfilment of the obligations established in the Agreement. For emergency notifications ([Chart A.9](#)), three developed Members and seven developing Members feature among the top 10 notifiers. Thailand submitted more than two thirds of all emergency notifications circulated in 2023, of which more than half related to avian influenza (see [Box 1](#)). This disease was also the subject of half of the emergency notifications submitted by Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia in 2023. No emergency notification was submitted by an LDC in 2023.

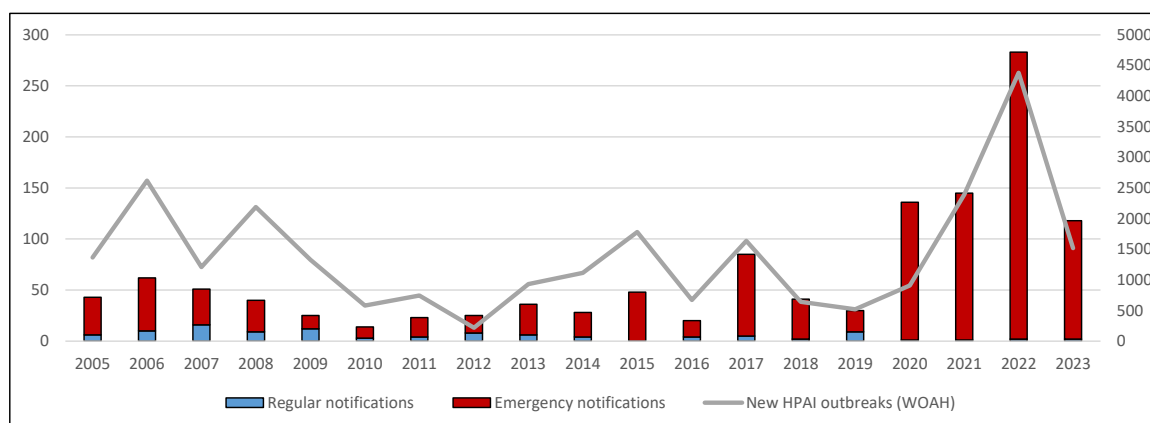
2.19. When looking at the break-down according to the type of notification, both since 1995 and for 2023, it seems that Members more consistently submit addenda to regular notifications than to emergency notifications, e.g. to provide information on the modification of the content of a previously notified regulation. The overall data on the use of addenda are shown in [Section 2.2.10](#).

### Box 1. Avian influenza

The keyword "avian influenza" was assigned to 116\* (53%) of the 220 emergency notifications submitted in 2023. When comparing the number of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)\* notified per year through the [OIE-WAHIS system](#) with the SPS notifications submitted to the WTO, we observe that since 2019 an increase in the number of outbreaks notified to the WOAHA coincides with an increase in the number of measures notified to the WTO in relation to avian influenza. In 2023, there was a striking decrease in both the number of outbreaks notified to WOAHA (1516) as well as the number of notifications submitted to WTO. Interestingly, while 47 Members (including several EU countries) informed WOAHA of outbreaks of HPAI, only 11 Members have notified related trade measures in 2023.

Despite the high number of outbreaks of HPAI notified to the WOAHA and the measures notified by WTO Members in relation to this disease, since 1995 only 24 of the 575 (4.2%) STCs raised in the Committee were assigned the keyword "avian influenza", corresponding to 13% of "animal health/animal diseases" related STCs. Members have also raised issues on the use of the WOAHA standard for HPAI under the agenda item "Monitoring of the use of international standards" in the SPS Committee meetings.

#### Number of regular and emergency notifications related to avian influenza and number of new HPAI outbreaks notified to the WOAHA



\*85 (73%) out of 116 were submitted by three Members.

\*\*Please note that data in the OIE-WAHIS refer to HPAI while the keyword avian influenza assigned to WTO SPS notifications refers to both HPAI and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI).

### 2.2.3 Products covered

2.20. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are required to identify the products to be covered by a new or changed SPS measure and should provide the relevant HS codes.

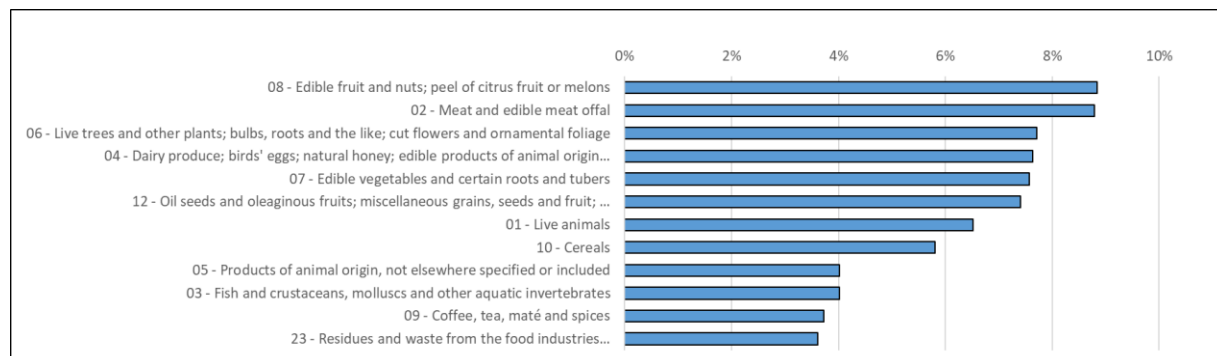
2.21. Since 1995, the WTO's Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) has been assigning, to the extent possible, the relevant HS codes for all notifications where these are not provided by Members.<sup>16</sup> The online submission of notifications through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) facilitates the inclusion of HS (and ICS) codes by submitting Members through a built-in search function, providing more accurate information. Since September 2020, Members can specify the relevant codes from all HS versions, which are available from a drop-down list when submitting notifications online (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)). This update was aimed at increasing accuracy in the products covered and facilitating the retrieval of the relevant HS codes, further improving the quality of notifications.

2.22. While only indicative, [Charts A.10](#) and [A.11](#) show the products at the two-digit HS codes level that are most often covered by regular and emergency notifications since 1995. Note that only

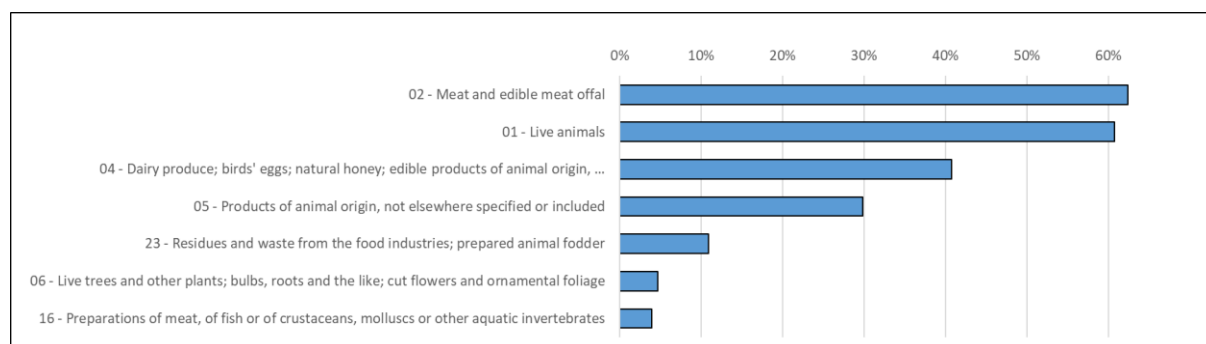
<sup>16</sup> This information is available in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) for tracking purposes only.

HS codes referred to in more than 3% of notifications are represented and that some code descriptions have been shortened for presentation purposes.

**Chart A.10 - HS codes most frequently assigned to regular notifications since 1995**



**Chart A.11 - HS codes most frequently assigned to emergency notifications since 1995**



2.23. It is interesting to note that regular notifications ([Chart A.10](#)) refer to a larger variety of HS codes in similarly high percentages (12 different codes are referred to in more than 3% of notifications, the highest percentage of 9% corresponding to HS code 08 - Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons and HS code 02 - Meat and edible meat offal). While the list of HS codes most frequently referred to seems stable over time, it is interesting to note that, in 2023, an unusually high number of regular notifications referred to HS 31 - Fertilisers. Emergency notifications mainly refer to animal-related HS codes ([Chart A.11](#)), and these are assigned to higher percentages of emergency notifications (seven different codes are referred to in more than 3% of notifications and four of these are above 30%; the highest percentages corresponding to HS code 02 - Meat and edible meat offal, referred to in 62% of notifications, and to HS code 01 - Live animals, referred to in 61% of notifications). These data are consistent with results shown in [Chart A.13](#) related to the objective of notifications.

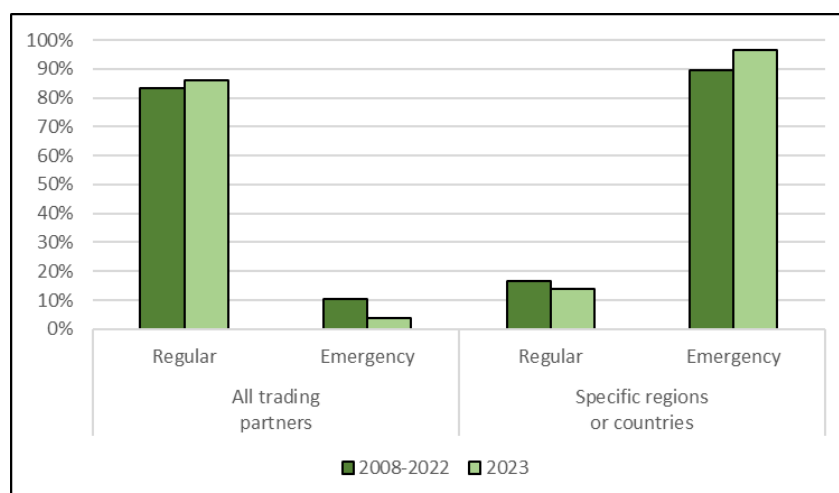
## 2.2.4 Regions/countries affected

2.24. The Recommended Transparency Procedures call on Members to identify the regions or countries which are most likely to be affected by the measure being notified. Since December 2008, the notification templates include a data entry option for this item whereby Members are invited to either select the checkbox for "all trading partners" or provide information on specific regions or countries likely to be affected.

2.25. Since 2008, the vast majority of notifications affecting all trading partners are regular notifications and only a small percentage are emergency notifications. Likewise, notifications affecting specific regions or countries are mostly emergency notifications, compared to a smaller percentage of regular notifications. [Chart A.12](#) shows that 86% of regular notifications submitted in 2023 are likely to affect all trading partners and 96% of emergency notifications submitted that year are likely to affect specific regions or countries. This pattern has been stable over the last few years, and seems to be consistent with the idea that emergency notifications are submitted where urgent problems of health protection arise or threaten to arise for a Member. The results shown in

[Chart A.13](#), indicating that emergency notifications mostly pursue animal health animal health, and the fact that all the emergency notifications to which the keyword regionalization has been assigned (86) are likely to affect specific regions of countries further reinforces the idea most of the emergency notifications submitted in 2023 were related to an animal health issue in a specific region or country. More detailed information on the objective of measures in relation to the affected partners is available in [Chart A.14](#).

**Chart A.12 - Percentage of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) affecting all trading partners or specific regions or countries**

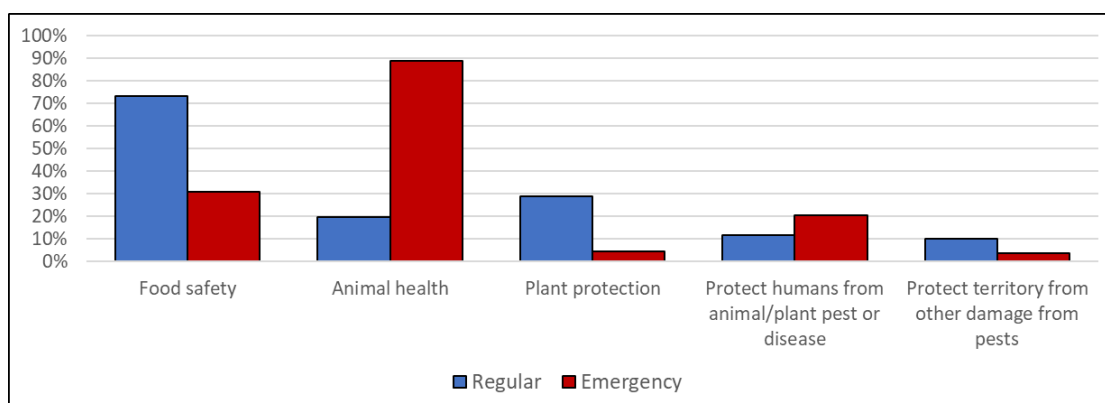


## 2.2.5 Objective and rationale

2.26. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are also required to state the objective and rationale of proposed regulations by selecting one of the following five options: food safety, animal health, plant protection, protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, and protect territory from other damage from pests. These objectives correspond to the definition of an SPS measure in paragraph 1 of Annex A to the SPS Agreement.

2.27. [Chart A.13](#) indicates the share of each objective as cited in regular and emergency notifications. It must be noted, however, that many notifications identify more than one objective. For regular notifications, the most frequently cited objective is food safety (73%), followed by plant protection (29%) and animal health (20%), while for emergency notifications it is animal health (89%), followed by food safety (31%) and protection of humans from animal/plant pest or disease (20%). While some small variations are observed over time, the overall patterns have not fluctuated much since 1995, and food safety and animal health are consistently the most frequent objective mentioned in regular and emergency notifications, respectively.

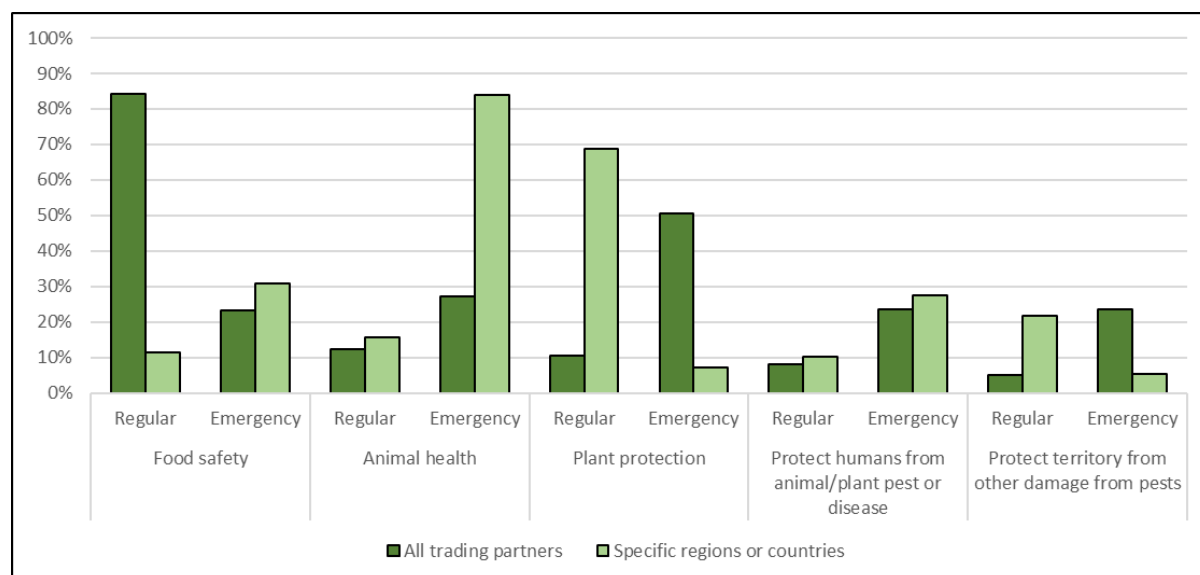
**Chart A.13 - Objectives of notified SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) in 2023**



### 2.2.5.1 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the regions or countries affected

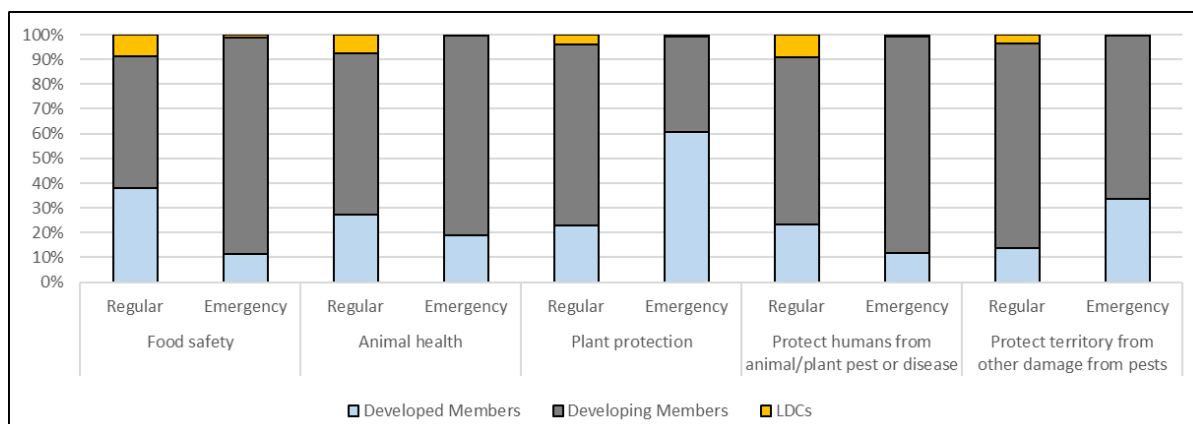
2.28. [Chart A.14](#) represents the objectives of regular and emergency notifications in relation to trading partners likely to be affected (i.e., all trading partners vs specific regions or countries), since 2008, when revised notification formats were adopted, making these data available. In the case of notifications affecting all trading partners submitted since 2008, food safety is the objective most frequently identified in regular notifications (84%), while plant protection is the most frequent objective in emergency notifications (51%). In the case of notifications likely to affect specific regions or countries submitted since 2008, plant protection is the objective most frequently identified in regular notifications (69%), while animal health is the most frequent objective in emergency notifications (84%).

**Chart A.14 - Objectives of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by affected Members since 2008**



### 2.2.5.2 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the development status of the notifying Member

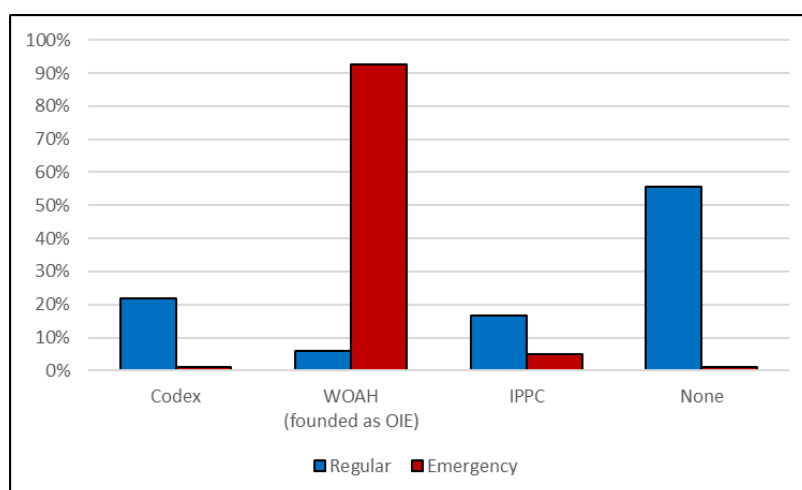
2.29. [Chart A.15](#) shows a detailed analysis of the objective of the measures and the development status of the notifying Members since 2008. Overall, developed Members have notified about 33% of all regular measures and 24% of all emergency measures submitted since 2008. In the case of developed Members, the most striking result refers to plant protection measures, representing 61% of all emergency measures related to plant protection. The share of notifications submitted by developing Members is higher for all other objectives, both for regular and emergency notifications, reaching more than 80% of the regular notifications aimed at the protection of the territory from other damage from pests, and of the emergency notifications aimed at the protection of food safety, animal health and humans from animal/plant pests or diseases.

**Chart A.15 - Objectives of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by development status since 2008**

### 2.2.6 International standards, guidelines or recommendations

2.30. The SPS Agreement does not require Members to notify a measure if its content is substantially the same as that of an international standard adopted by Codex, WOH (founded as OIE) or IPPC. Nonetheless, the Recommended Transparency Procedures encourage Members to notify all regulations that are based on, conform to, or are substantially the same as an international standard, guideline or recommendation, if they are expected to have a significant impact on trade of other Members. The notification formats also seek more precision from Members regarding relevant standards and the conformity of the notified measure with these.

2.31. With respect to regular notifications circulated in 2023, [Chart A.16](#) shows that in 55% of the cases, Members have not identified an international standard as being relevant to the notified measure. This represents a 2% increase compared to the previous year (53% in 2022). In 2023, 22% (28% in 2022) have referred to Codex, 17% (12% in 2022) to IPPC and 6% (7% in 2022) to WOH. When it comes to emergency notifications, [Chart A.16](#) shows that in only 1% of the cases, no relevant international standard had been identified, whereas 93%, 5% and 1% referred to WOH, IPPC and Codex standards, respectively. These results are identical to those observed in 2022.

**Chart A.16 – Regular and emergency notifications referring to a relevant international standard in 2023**

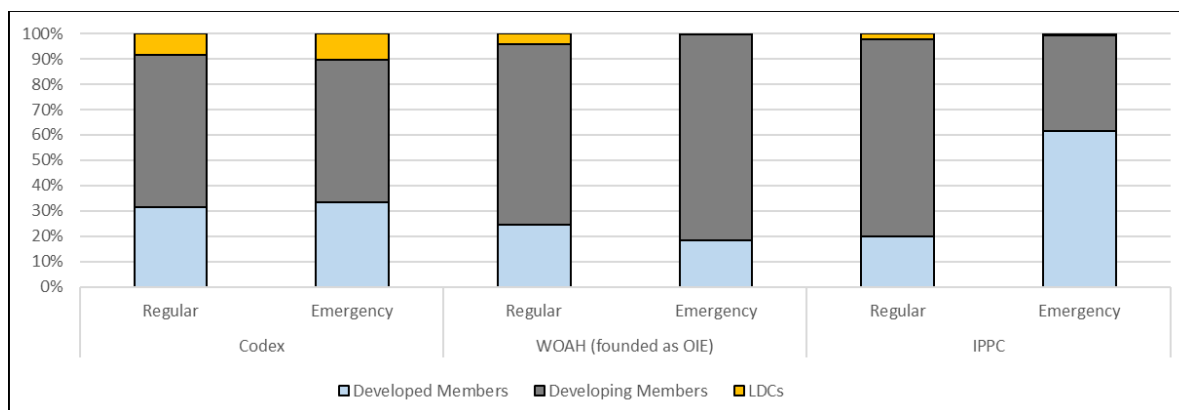
2.32. It is important to keep in mind that, even if a notification refers to an international standard, the notified measure might not conform to it, i.e. its content might not be substantially the same as the content of the international standard. Therefore, in the notification formats Members are required to identify whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard. In 2023, of the 548 (45%) regular notifications identifying a relevant international standard for the measure,



416 (76%) indicated that the proposed regulation conformed to that relevant international standard. Out of the regular notifications that indicated that the notified regulation did not conform to a relevant international standard, all but three referred to Codex standards. For the same period, nearly all (98%) emergency notifications identifying a relevant international standard indicated that the proposed regulation conformed to the relevant international standard. This further confirms the relevance of the standards set by the three international standard-setting bodies recognized by the SPS Agreement when addressing emergency situations.

2.33. [Chart A.17](#) shows conformity with international standards of measures notified by development status. Overall, since 2008 the majority of measures conforming to international standards are submitted by developing Members. In the case of regular notifications, developing Members have submitted 60%, 71% and 78% of measures notified which conform to Codex, WOA and IPPC standards, respectively. Concerning emergency notifications, developed Members have submitted 61% of notifications conforming to IPPC standards. Developing Members have notified 56% and 81% of the emergency notifications confirming to Codex and WOA standards, respectively.

**Chart A.17 – Conformity with international standards of measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) notified by development status since 2008**



## 2.2.7 Proposed date of adoption/publication/entry into force

2.34. In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement, Members must ensure that all SPS regulations which have been adopted are published promptly. Except in urgent circumstances, Members are also obliged to allow a reasonable interval between the publication of a measure and its entry into force. Paragraph 3.2 of the Doha Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns states that this interval "shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than 6 months".<sup>17</sup>

2.35. The regular notification format contained in the Recommended Transparency Procedures includes separate fields for entering the "proposed date of publication", the "proposed date of adoption" and the "proposed date of entry into force". In addition, it includes a default checkbox for a six-month interval between the publication and entry into force of a new measure. For each of these items, Members submitting notifications online through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) can easily enter dates from a calendar, allowing for a more accurate analysis.

2.36. For 2023, about 28% (34% in 2022) of the regular notifications identified either a specific date or a wider period (months or quarters, mainly) for adoption, while in the remaining 72%, the date of adoption was still to be determined. This illustrates that, at the time of notification, Members are not always able to foresee the exact date of adoption of a regulation.

2.37. During the reporting period, 340 (28%) regular notifications (25% in 2022) indicated a specific date of publication. Of these, 127 (37%, compared to 76% in 2022) had been published on the day, or prior to the date of distribution of the notification, and 57 of these concerned measures identified as trade facilitating. Regarding the interval between publication of the measure and its

<sup>17</sup> [WT/MIN\(01\)/17](#); see also para. 4.3 of [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#).

entry into force, 190 regular notifications (16%, compared to 22% in 2022) had selected the checkbox for a six-month interval provided in the notification format. A total of 272 notifications provided a specific date of entry into force. Of these, only 15 provided a period of six months or more and, of the remaining, 27 provided one day or more. A total of 950 notifications did not provide a specific date of entry into force. It should be noted that, in some cases, such dates are not yet determined at the time of the notification, as the nature and extent of comments received on the proposed measure may affect the dates of adoption, publication and entry into force.

2.38. As provided for in the Recommended Transparency Procedures, notifying Members sometimes follow up on their original notification with an addendum to alert Members to the adoption, publication, or entry into force of a previously notified proposed measure. About 83% of the addenda submitted in 2023 (77% in 2022) indicated the adoption, publication or entry into force of regulations as shown in [Chart A.19](#) (see [Section 2.2.9](#)).

### 2.2.8 Final date for comments

2.39. Paragraph 5 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement provides that notifications should take place at an early stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account. The Recommended Transparency Procedures state that the comment period provided for regular notifications should last at least 60 days. Where domestic regulatory mechanisms allow, the 60-day comment period should normally begin with the circulation of the notification by the WTO Secretariat. The notification formats also offer a checkbox option for such a 60-day comment period to encourage Members to follow this recommendation.<sup>18</sup> Members submitting notifications online can easily enter the final date for comments from a calendar, allowing for a more accurate analysis. A total of 726 (59%, same share as in 2021 and in 2022) regular notifications submitted in 2023 used the checkbox to provide a 60-day comment period.

2.40. An analysis of the total notifications issued during 2023 shows that 1095 (55%) provided a comment period, of which 981 are regular notifications. The duration of the comment period ranged from a minimum of 1 day to a maximum of 95 days<sup>19</sup>, with an average of 57 days (calculated as the difference between the date of circulation of the notification and the final date for comments; see [Table A.2](#)). More specifically, 813 (83%) regular notifications provided a comment period of 60 or more days. On average, both developed Members and developing (including LDCs) provided 57 days for comments. The [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) allows to search for notifications for which the comment period is open.

**Table A.2 - Comment period provided in regular notifications (2023)**

All Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	1,222	-
Comment period available	981	80%
Comment period not indicated/not available	241	20%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	2	<1%
Average length (in days)	57	
Developed Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	441	-
Comment period available	292	66%
Comment period not indicated/not available	149	34%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	1	<1%
Average length (in days)	57	

<sup>18</sup> See [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), para. 2.8.

<sup>19</sup> One notification provided 186 days and another, 426 days: these outliers were excluded from the subsequent calculations.

Developing Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	781	-
Comment period available	689	88%
Comment period not indicated/not available	92	12%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	1	<1%
Average length (in days)	57	

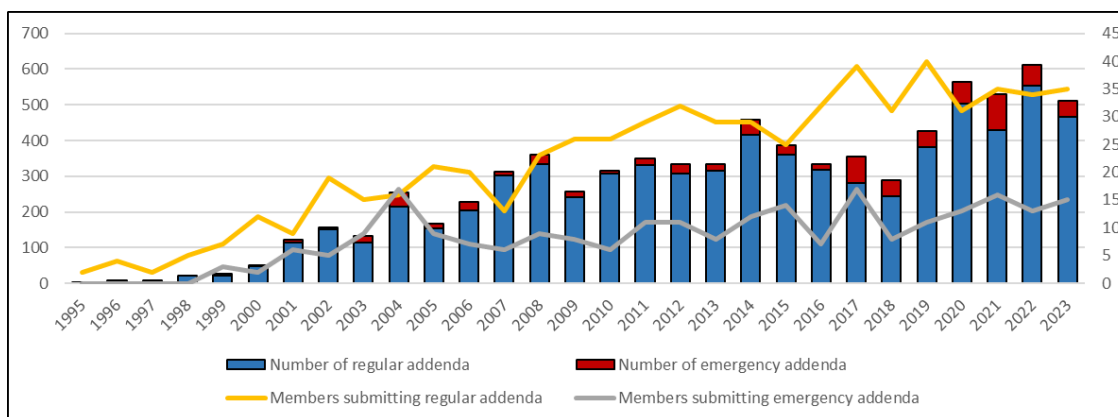
2.41. While Members must notify other WTO Members of draft, new or changed measures, they are not required to submit the text of the relevant regulations along with their notifications. However, Members have raised concerns in the SPS Committee regarding difficulties to access the full text of the regulations, only summarized in the notifications. Members have also pointed out that the process of obtaining the texts of regulations reduces the period actually available for providing comments.

2.42. Since February 2008, to address these concerns and facilitate access to notified draft regulations, Members may, on a voluntary basis, provide the Secretariat with an electronic version of the text of the notified draft regulation as an attachment to the notification. The submitted text is then made electronically accessible to other Members through a hyperlink in the notification format.<sup>20</sup> Many Members include a hyperlink to their own electronic version of the notified regulation as part of the text of the notification, in addition to or instead of the above option. Through the submission of notifications functionality of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), Members can upload documents that become automatically available for all Members through the Platform. In 2023, around 1,142 (94%) regular and 165 (75%) emergency notifications, submitted by 61 Members, included a link to the full text or a summary of the notified draft regulations using this facility. Members may wish to remind their notification authorities of the availability of this facility.

### 2.2.9 Addenda to regular and emergency notifications

2.43. Overall, Members have been submitting increasing numbers of addenda to regular and emergency notifications since 1995, as shown in [Chart A.18](#). This increase led to an historical maximum in 2022, reaching a total of 612 (553 regular and 59 emergency) addenda (see [Chart A.1](#)). A slightly lower number of addenda was submitted in 2023, with a total of 510 (466 emergency and 44 emergency). It is also interesting to note that an increasing number of Members are following the good practice of submitting addenda to regular and emergency notifications. In total, 74 and 50 Members have submitted at least one addendum to regular or emergency notifications, respectively. In 2023, 35 and 15 Members have submitted addenda to regular and emergency notifications, respectively, representing a slight increase compared to 2022 (34 and 13, respectively).

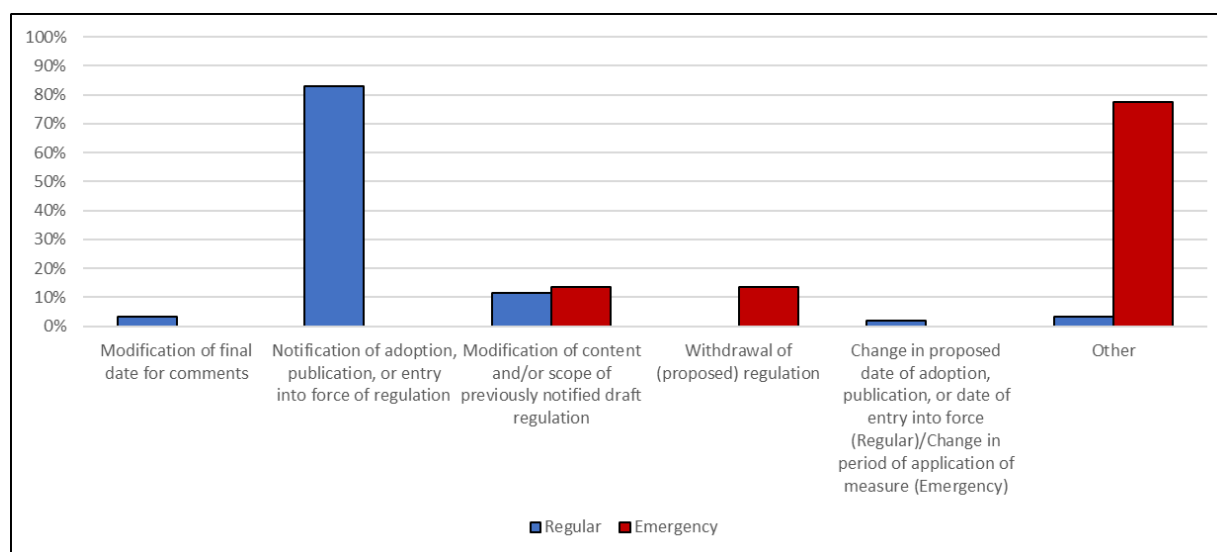
**Chart A.18 - Evolution of the number of addenda and number of Members submitting addenda to regular and emergency notifications**



<sup>20</sup> See [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), para. 2.17 and Annex C.

2.44. According to the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are asked to select the reason for an addendum from a list of options. [Chart A.19](#) shows the share of each option for 2023. Note that the "Notification of adoption, publication, or entry into force of regulation" is an option available for addenda to regular notifications only. Also, the format for addenda to regular notifications includes the option "Withdrawal of proposed regulations", while emergency notifications refer to "Withdrawal of regulations". Other reasons mentioned in the formats include, for instance, lifting an import ban or the inclusion of a new country in the list of affected regions. It is interesting to note that the large majority (83%) of addenda to regular notifications inform of the adoption, publication, or entry into force of regulation while, for emergency notifications, 14% inform of the modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation and another 14% inform of the withdrawal of a proposed regulation. The large majority (77%) refer to "Other" reasons, of which a large majority referred to the lifting of a temporary ban, including a ban imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic (see [Section 2.4](#)).

**Chart A.19 - Reasons for addenda (percentage) in 2023<sup>21</sup>**



2.45. In addition, Members can notify their decision on special and differential treatment provided in reference to a specific request, through another addendum notification format. As previously mentioned, no Member has ever notified such a decision to the Committee.

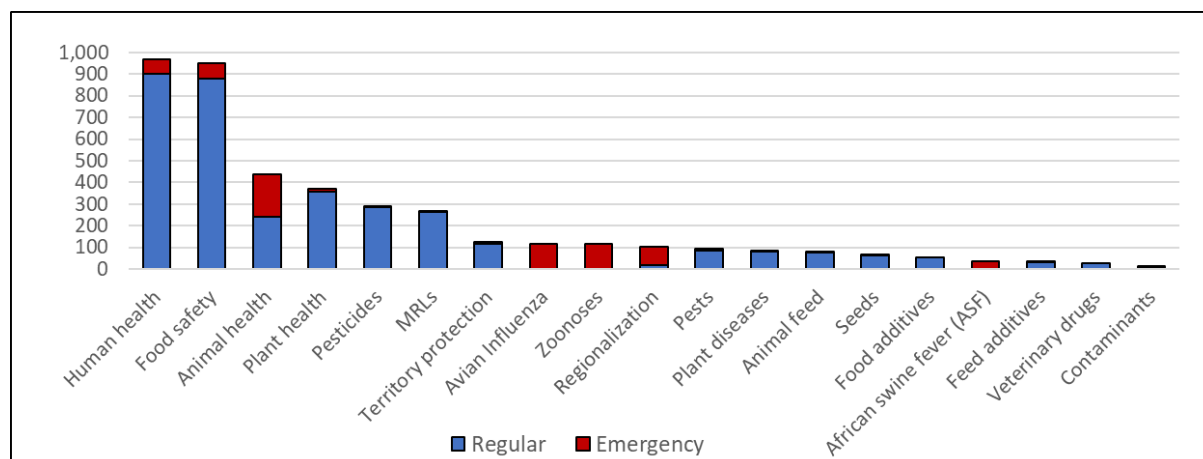
### 2.3 Notification keywords

2.46. In the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), notifications can also be categorized according to a list of about 90 predefined keywords, which describe issues appearing frequently in notifications. The CRN has assigned these keywords since 2003, and they assist searching for notifications in certain areas. While the keywords include the objectives of the notification (e.g. food safety, animal health, plant protection), they also include other notification subjects, specific animal and plant diseases, etc.

2.47. As shown in [Chart A.20](#), the keywords which have been most frequently assigned to regular notifications, in descending order for the current reporting period, are human health, food safety, plant health, pesticides and maximum residue limits (MRLs). For emergency notifications, the most frequent keywords in descending order are animal health/animal diseases<sup>22</sup>, avian influenza, zoonoses and pest- or disease- free regions/regionalization. It must be noted that most of the notifications are assigned more than one keyword. The COVID-19 SPS keyword created in 2020 was assigned to two addenda to emergency notifications only (see [Section 2.4](#)).

<sup>21</sup> Each notification can have multiple entries for the reasons for addenda.

<sup>22</sup> "Animal health" and "Animal diseases" keywords have been merged into "Animal health/animal diseases".

**Chart A.20 - Keywords of notified regular and emergency SPS measures in 2023 (number)**

## 2.4 COVID-19 related notifications and documents

2.48. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Members have continued to fulfil their transparency obligations, including the notification of specific COVID-19 related SPS measures. The WTO created the dedicated website [COVID-19 and world trade](#) to inform of trade-related developments in light of the pandemic. In 2020, the Secretariat created a COVID-19 SPS keyword that was assigned to notifications and other documents based on the presence of the words COVID-19, nCOV or coronavirus in the text of the notification. This keyword can be searched for in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) and in [DocsOnLine](#).

2.49. Between February 2020 and December 2023, Members submitted a total of 133 documents informing of measures adopted in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, only two documents were submitted, both lifting temporary restrictions previously notified as emergency notifications. Likewise, most of the restrictions on the importation, and sometimes transit, of live animals and animal products, or on certain species imposed in 2020 have already been lifted. Almost two-thirds of the measures adopted facilitated trade, mainly through the acceptance of electronic copies or scanned certificates. While several of these measures were extended through addenda to the original notifications, Members have not recently informed of further extensions of their trade facilitating measures. As of 31 December 2023, SPS COVID-19 related documents represented 25% of all COVID-19 related documents submitted by Members to the WTO. The last SPS COVID-19 document was submitted on 16 January 2023.

2.50. In May 2020, the Secretariat published a technical note on "[Standards, regulations and COVID-19 - What actions taken by WTO members?](#)" (SPS and TBT) that was updated in December 2020. In June 2020, the SPS Committee organized an [information-sharing session on COVID-19](#) on the margins of the Committee meeting<sup>23</sup> and included a dedicated item in all informal meetings prior to the regular Committee meetings until June 2022.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, a Thematic Session on the Use of Remote (Virtual) Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks was held on the margins of the 2022 June Committee meeting.<sup>25</sup> A report to the Council for Trade in Goods circulated in December 2022 summarizes the SPS COVID-19 related actions undertaken by the SPS Committee.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> The report of the information-sharing session is contained in [G/SPS/R/98](#).

<sup>24</sup> The reports on the SPS Committee informal meetings held in March and June 2022 are contained in Annex A of document [G/SPS/R/105](#) and Annex C of document [G/SPS/R/107](#), respectively. In the June 2022 meeting, the Committee agreed to delete this agenda item for the following SPS Committee meeting (see section 6.3 in document [G/SPS/R/107](#)).

<sup>25</sup> The dedicated page and the recordings of the sessions are available here: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/thematic\\_session\\_21jun22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/thematic_session_21jun22_e.htm).

<sup>26</sup> The report is contained in document [G/L/1477-G/SPS/66](#).

### 3 PART B - SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS

3.1. Part B of the present document contains information on STCs, maintaining the previously assigned numbers according to the chronological order of the Committee meetings in which they were first raised, although titles may be updated to reflect the latest state of the concern. These numbers serve as unique identifiers and are intended to facilitate the tracking of issues raised over time. The Secretariat has revised this report annually to include new information provided by Members ([G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.1](#) to [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.23](#)). As mentioned above, in preparing this report, the Secretariat has largely relied on the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). More detailed searches have been undertaken in the [Trade Concerns Database \(TCD\)](#).

3.2. Part B is divided into two sections:

- [General overview of specific trade concerns \(1995-2023\)](#); and
- [Specific trade concerns considered in 2023](#).

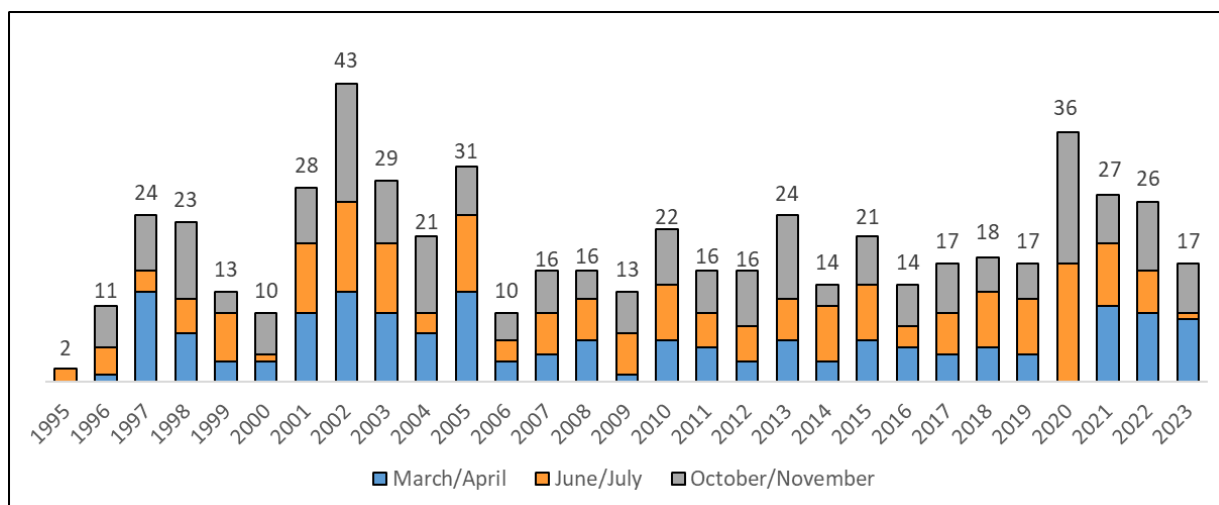
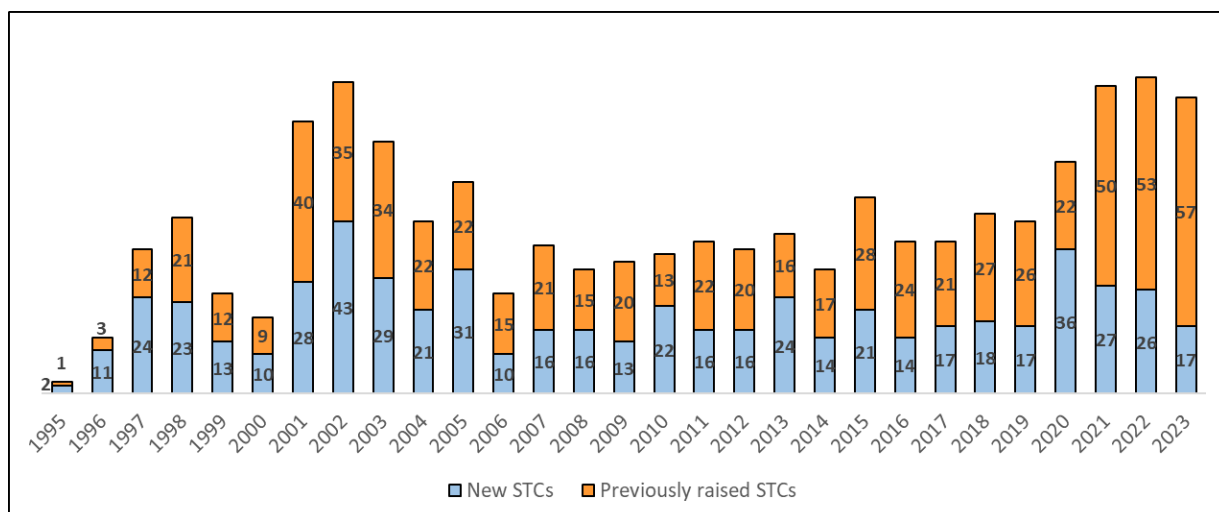
3.3. The first section of Part B presents a general overview of STCs, including summary statistics and graphs for all the STCs raised in the SPS Committee between the first regular meeting of 1995 and the last regular meeting of 2023. It provides detailed information on the concerns raised per meeting, as well as the relation between the number of notifications and the number of concerns. In addition, the STCs are categorized by their primary subject keyword (food safety, animal or plant health, or other concerns). Information is also provided on the participation of Members in STCs, by development status, on the average number of times that STCs are raised, as well as on reported status of resolution.

3.4. The second section of Part B contains information regarding all STCs which were raised in the SPS Committee in 2023 ([Section 3.2](#)). This includes STCs raised for the first time in 2023, STCs which were previously raised and discussed again in 2023 and STCs resolved in 2023. Information is also provided on the first request for the use of the Good Offices of the Chair under Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement and the *ad hoc* consultations procedure, as well as on STCs for which substantive action occurred under the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). All STCs discussed in 2023 are presented by responding Member ([Table B.2](#)).

#### 3.1 General overview of specific trade concerns (1995-2023)

3.5. Altogether, [575 STCs](#) have been raised between 1995 and the end of 2023. The full list of STCs raised since 1995 can be found in the [TCD](#). [Chart B.1](#) shows the number of new STCs raised each year, per Committee meeting, and [Chart B.2](#) shows the number of new and previously raised STCs per year. A total of 17 new STCs were raised in the three SPS Committee meetings held in 2023. This number is slightly lower than the average since 1995, and also lower than the number of new STCs raised in the last three years.

3.6. In 2023, 57 previously raised STCs were discussed again (including 10 new STCs raised again in the same year), the highest number since 1995. Over the last four years there seems to be a downward trend in the number of new STCs raised and an upward trend in the number of previously raised STCs. The withdrawal of several new STCs from the agenda prior to its adoption at the beginning of the meeting may suggest that bilateral negotiations prior to SPS Committee meetings contribute to easing trade frictions and reduce the number of new STCs raised in the Committee. Specific information on STCs discussed in 2023 is available in [Section 3.2](#).

**Chart B.1 – Number of new STCs raised since 1995, per Committee meeting****Chart B.2 – Number of new and previously raised STCs discussed per year since 1995<sup>27</sup>**

3.7. It is interesting to note that, despite the increasing number of notifications submitted by Members (see [Chart A.1](#)), there does not seem to be a clear correlation between the number of notifications and the number of new STCs raised. Only 225 (39%) STCs referred to a notified measure; specifically, 197 STCs referred to a regular notification (including addenda) while 35 STCs referred to an emergency notification (including addenda). Additionally, 18 STCs referred to a TBT notification and ten STCs raised in the TBT Committee referred to a notification submitted to the SPS Committee.

3.8. [Chart B.3](#) categorizes the 575 STCs raised since 1995 into food safety, animal or plant health, or other concerns. Overall, 191 (33%) of STCs raised relate primarily to food safety, 188 (33%) to animal health/animal diseases (animal health), 126 (22%) to plant health, and 70 (12%) to other issues such as certification requirements, or control, inspection or approval procedures.<sup>28</sup> A closer look at the primary objectives of STCs raised in 2023 compared to previous years shows an increased number of STCs which are not clearly related to food safety, animal or plant health, both in the new and the previously raised STCs discussed in 2023 ([Chart B.11](#)). On average, it seems that STCs

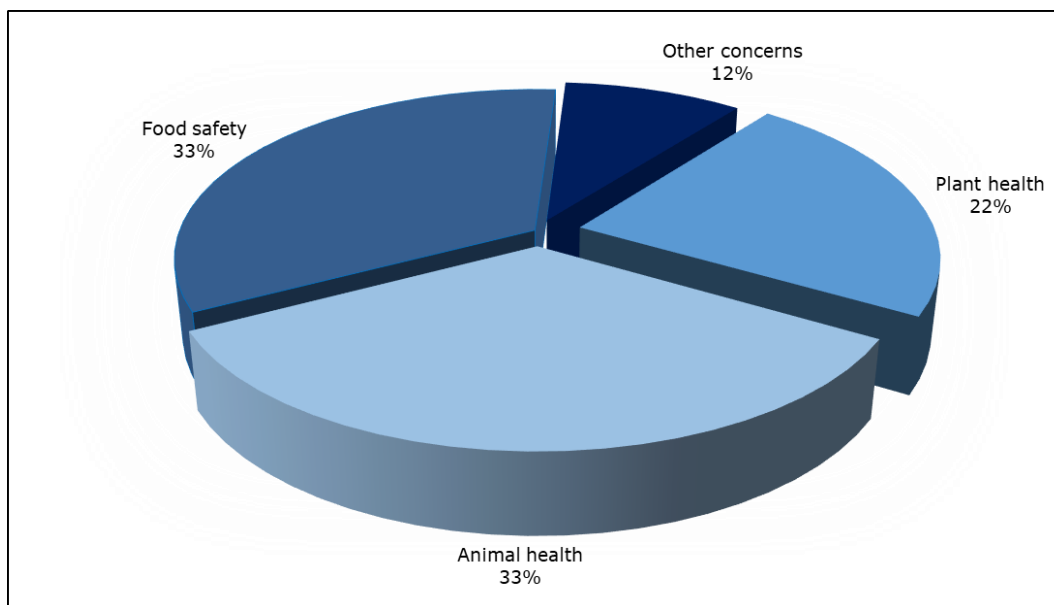
<sup>27</sup> Please note that the number of times an STC is raised during the year is not taken into account. New STCs raised again in the same year are also included in the total of previously raised STCs.

<sup>28</sup> Many STCs concern both food safety, animal or plant health and control, inspection or approval procedures. Where this is the case, the primary subject keyword "food safety", "animal health/animal diseases" or "plant health" has been assigned. In addition, the keyword "control, inspection and approval procedures" has also been assigned to such STCs.



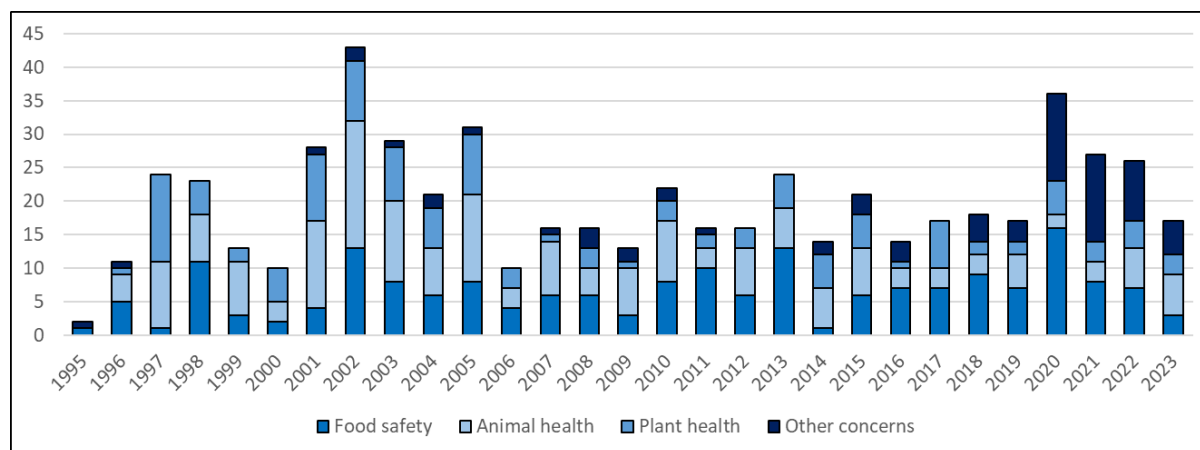
related to other concerns (including control, inspection and approval procedures) are raised more frequently than STCs with other objectives (3.5 times compared to the average of 3.1 for all STCs). Similarly, fewer STCs with other objectives have been reported as resolved or partially resolved. These statistics are summarized in [Table B.1](#).

**Chart B.3 – STCs by subject (1995-2023)**



3.9. There does not seem to be a clear pattern in the primary subject keywords (food safety, animal health, plant health or other concerns) of new STCs submitted since 1995 ([Chart B.4](#)). Overall, food safety has been the most frequent primary keyword of new STCs raised in recent years, alternating with animal health. Compared to 2022, there was a decrease in the number of STCs related to food safety and other concerns, while the number of STCs related to animal and plant health remains overall unchanged.

**Chart B.4 - Primary subject keywords of new STCs per year**

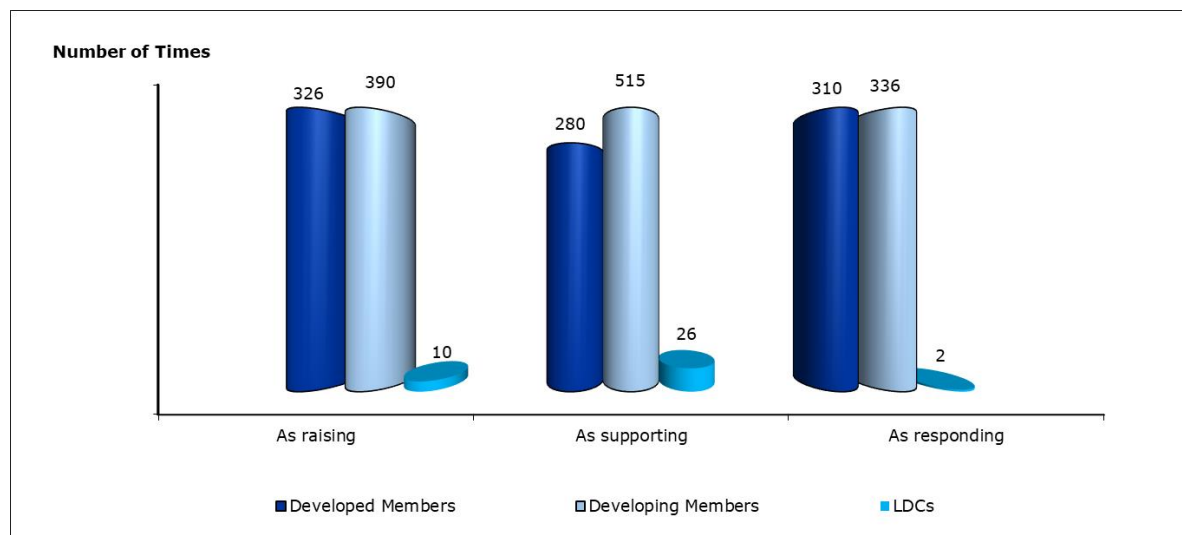


3.10. [Chart B.5](#) reflects the participation of Members in the 575 STCs<sup>29</sup> raised since 1995, according to their development status, regardless of how often the same STC was discussed in the Committee. Developing Members actively participate as Members raising (390 times) and supporting (515 times) STCs, compared to developed Members (326 and 280 times, respectively). These figures are

<sup>29</sup> STCs can be raised, supported or responded to by more than one Member, which explains the apparent double-counting shown in Chart B.5 compared with the overall count of the 575 STCs raised since 1995.

considerably lower in the case of LDCs (10 and 26 times, respectively). When it comes to Members maintaining the measures, in 336 cases a developing Member responded to a concern, compared to 310 and two for a developed Member and an LDC, respectively.

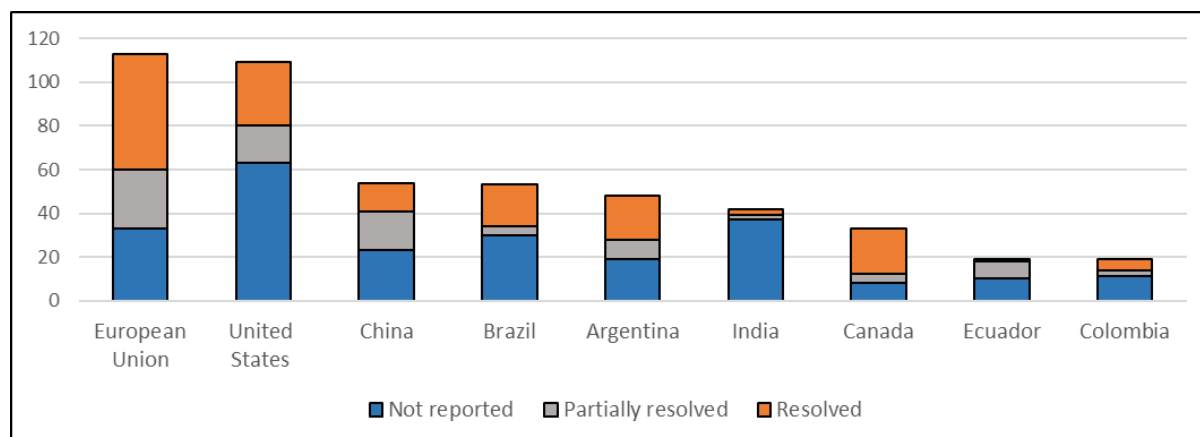
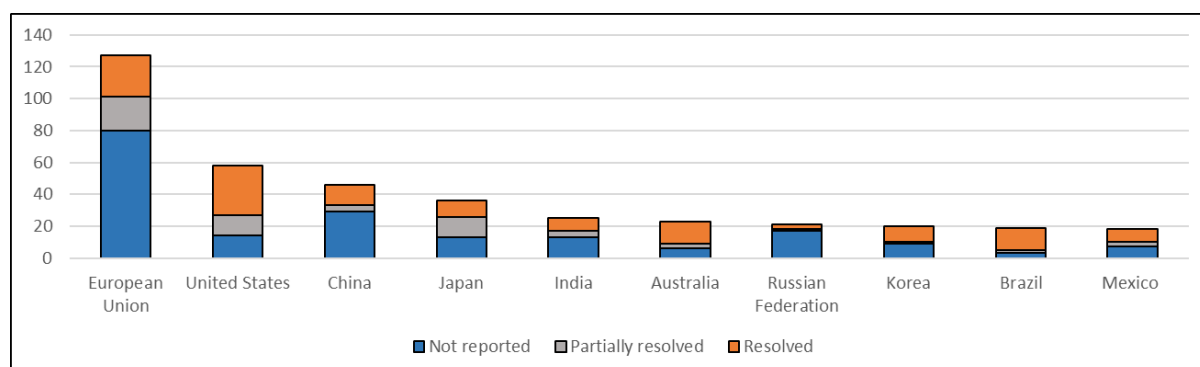
**Chart B.5 – Participation of Members in STCs according to their development status, since 1995**



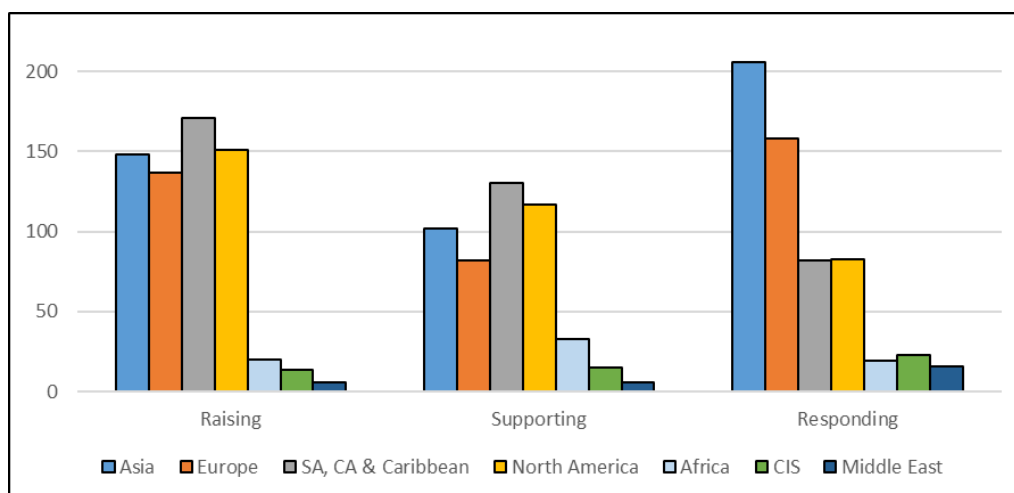
3.11. A total of 66 Members (40% of the membership) have raised at least one STC since 1995. This includes 19 developed Members, 43 developing Members and four LDCs. A total of 79 Members have supported at least one STC since 1995 (14 developed Members, 50 developing Members and 15 LDCs). A total of 69 Members' measures have been subject to an STC at least once (16 developed Members, 51 developing Members and two LDCs). Overall, these numbers confirm that developing Members and LDCs are very active and make use of the SPS Committee as a forum to discuss trade concerns.

3.12. [Charts B.6](#) and [B.7](#) show the 10 Members that have raised the highest number of new concerns and the 10 Members that have responded to the highest number of STCs, respectively, since 1995 up to the last Committee meeting in November 2023. Out of the 10 Members that have raised the highest number of STCs since 1995, three are developed Members and the remaining seven are developing Members, and the list of most active Members has not changed from last year. Two Members have raised almost 40% of the STCs discussed in the SPS Committee. When it comes to Members responding to STCs, five are developed and five are developing Members. [Chart B.6](#) shows that, for some Members, more than 75% of the STCs raised have been resolved or partially resolved.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Members can report on the resolution of STCs under the corresponding agenda item in the SPS Committee. Where an STC has been raised by more than one Member but not all those who raised the STC have reported it to be resolved, the STC is considered to be partially resolved. Also, for partially resolved STCs, for the concern may have been resolved for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure in question.

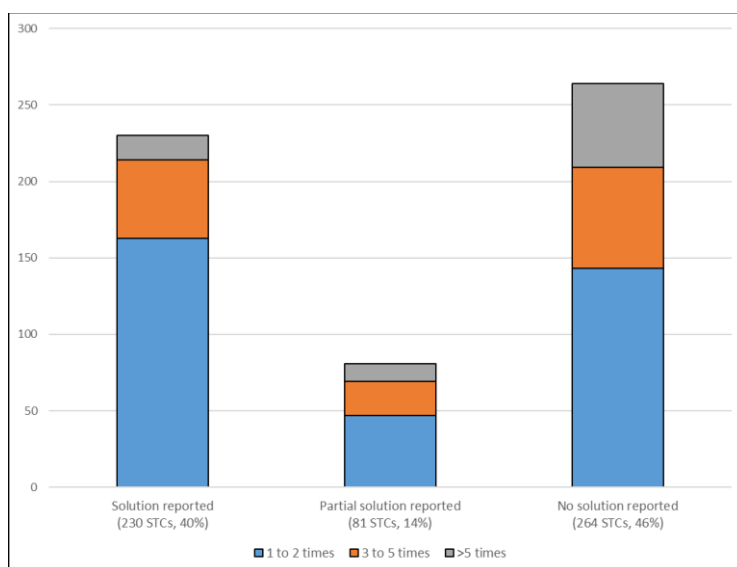
**Chart B.6 - Members who have raised the most STCs since 1995****Chart B.7 - Members responding to the most STCs since 1995**

3.13. South America, Central America and the Caribbean is the region that has raised the most STCs since 1995 (30%), followed by North America and Asia (both 26%). Asia is the region responding to the highest number of STCs (36%), followed by Europe (27%). Finally, South America, Central America and the Caribbean is also the region that most frequently supports STCs (23%) ([Chart B.8](#)). It is interesting to note that food safety is the primary objective of the majority of concerns raised by Asian Members (48%), while the majority of concerns (46%) raised by European Members relate to animal health. It is also worth noting that the European Union is responding to STCs that refer mainly to food safety (53%) while Members from South America, Central America and the Caribbean mainly respond to STCs related to animal health (49%).

**Chart B.8 – Number of STCs by geographical region since 1995**

3.14. [Chart B.9](#) refers to the average number of times STCs have been raised since 1995<sup>31</sup>, coupled with information on the resolution status of the concerns. Out of the 575 STCs raised since 1995, 230 (40%) have been reported to be resolved and 81 (14%) have been reported to be partially resolved. It is interesting to note that 163 (71%) of the 230 STCs reported as resolved were only raised once or twice prior to their resolution. In the case of the 81 STCs for which a partial solution has been reported, 47 (58%) have only been raised once or twice. This could suggest that raising STCs in the Committee triggers discussions that could contribute to the resolution of the concerns. When it comes to 264 STCs that have not been reported as resolved, 143 (54%) have only been raised once or twice, although this result includes STCs that have been raised in recent Committee meetings, and more time would be needed before further conclusions can be drawn. It is also worth noting that 133 (50%) of the concerns that have not been reported as resolved have not been raised in the last five years; some of those were only raised once or twice and never discussed again in the Committee, suggesting that some of these STCs may have resolved without the Committee being informed. In total, about 54% of the STCs raised have been resolved or partially resolved. More than half of these were raised, alone or with other Members, by developing countries and LDCs. These data confirm the importance of the Committee for the resolution of trade concerns.

**Chart B.9 – Resolution status and number of times STCs have been raised since 1995**



3.15. Of the 230 STCs for which a solution has been reported, 90 (39%) relate to animal health, 65 (29%) to plant health, 58 (25%) to food safety, and 17 (7%) to other concerns. It is interesting to note that STCs relating to food safety and animal health issues each represent 33% of the total number of STCs raised since 1995 ([Chart B.3](#)), while they correspond to 25% and 39%, respectively, of the total STCs reported as resolved. STCs related to plant health and other concerns represent 22% and 12% of the total, and constitute 29% and 7% of the resolved STCs, respectively. These statistics are summarized in [Table B.1](#).

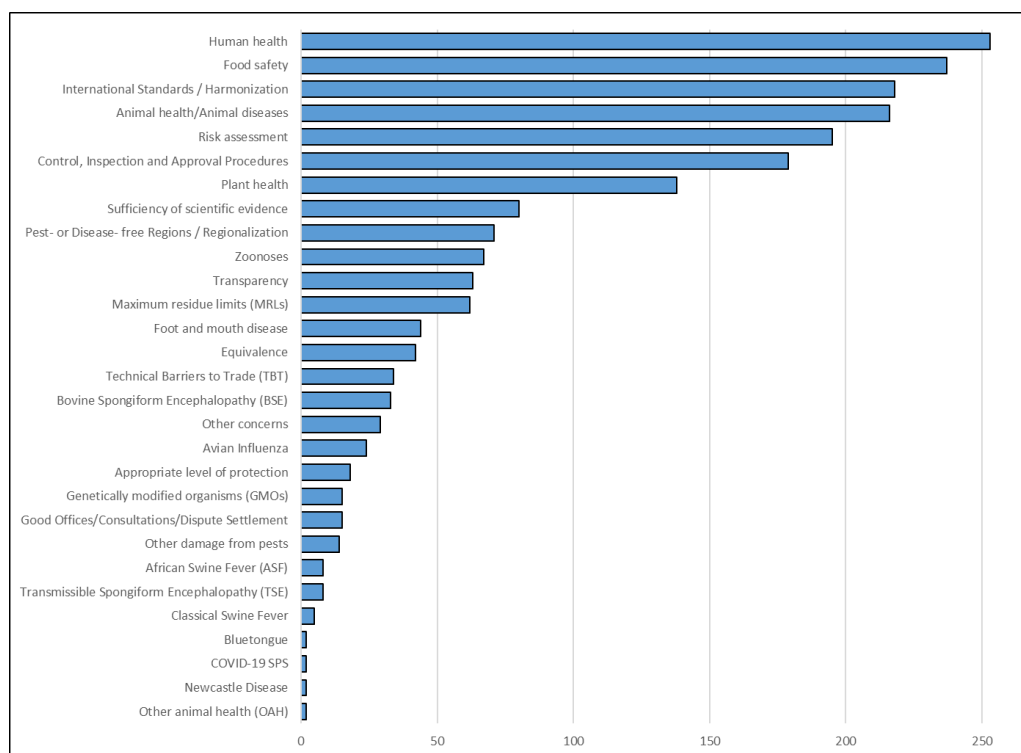
**Table B.1 - Summary of statistics on resolution of STCs, by primary subject keyword**

Primary keyword subject	Food safety	Animal health	Plant health	Other concerns	All STCs
All STCs	191 (33%)	188 (33%)	126 (22%)	70 (12%)	575
Number of times raised (average)	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.5	3.1
STCs reported as resolved (R)	58 (25%)	90 (39%)	65 (29%)	17 (7%)	230 (40%)
Partially resolved (PR) STCs	26 (33%)	34 (41%)	14 (18%)	7 (8%)	81 (14%)
STCs for which no solution has been reported (NR)	107 (40%)	64 (25%)	47 (18%)	46 (17%)	264 (46%)

<sup>31</sup> These figures do not include the time the STC was raised in the Committee to report on its resolution.

3.16. In 2022, the list of keywords assigned to STCs was reduced to streamline searches. [Chart B.10](#) shows that a large number of STCs discussed since 1995 are related to human health and food safety. Other keywords frequently assigned are animal health and international standards/harmonization and risk assessment.

**Chart B.10 – Keywords assigned to STCs**



### 3.2 Specific trade concerns considered in 2023

3.17. While in 2023 Committee meetings were still held in hybrid mode, a higher number of delegates were present in the Geneva compared to the previous years, allowing for more opportunities for in person bilateral interactions. In 2023, several new and previously raised STCs were removed before the adoption of the agenda due to progress in bilateral consultations. In particular, in March 2023 India withdrew four new STCs: Brazil's MRLs for prothioconazole ([G/SPS/N/BRA/2054](#)); Brazil's MRLs for fluxapyroxad in bananas, pumpkins ([G/SPS/N/BRA/2079/Add.1](#)); Brazil's modifications of MRLs and pre-harvest intervals (PHI) inconsistent with established risk assessment guidelines by FAO ([G/SPS/N/BRA/2029/Add.2](#)); and South Africa's MRLs for abamectin, pyraclostrobin and chlorpyrifos ([G/SPS/N/ZAF/78](#)). In the same meeting, Chinese Taipei did not raise the STC "China's actions related to COVID-19 that affect trade in food and agricultural products ([ID 487](#))", which was only raised by Australia, Japan, and the European Union.<sup>32</sup> In July 2023, three previously raised STCs were removed from the agenda: Brazil withdrew STC [ID 521](#), Chinese Taipei's import restrictions on poultry and beef; India removed STC [ID 525](#), The Russian Federation's classification of tea as "fruits and vegetables"; and the Russian Federation withdrew STC [ID 527](#), Delays in Thailand's approval procedures for animal products.<sup>33</sup> In November 2023, before the adoption of the agenda, the United States withdrew the support it had initially indicated in eAgenda for STC [ID 431](#), South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> See paragraph 3.1 of the summary report of the March 2023 SPS Committee meeting ([G/SPS/R/109/Corr.1](#)). These STCs had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/26](#).

<sup>33</sup> See paragraph 4.1 of the summary report of the July 2023 SPS Committee meeting ([G/SPS/R/110](#)). These STCs had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/29](#).

<sup>34</sup> See paragraph 3.1 of the summary report of the November 2023 SPS Committee meeting ([G/SPS/R/111](#)). This STC had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/32](#).

3.18. A total of [67 STCs](#) were brought to the attention of the Committee during 2023, of which 17 were new STCs and 50 had been raised previously ([Table B.2](#) provides further information on these STCs, including Members' participation, objective, number of times raised and resolution status). In addition, seven STCs raised for the first time in 2023 were again discussed in subsequent meetings during the same year, bringing the number of previously raised STCs considered in this document to 57, a historical maximum in the SPS Committee ([Chart B.2](#)). In 2023, two STCs were reported as resolved (see [Section 3.2.1](#)). In 2023, substantive action occurred under the DSU in the case of three STCs (IDs [185](#), [356](#) and [495](#)) ([Table B.3](#)).

3.19. The number of new STCs raised in the Committee has been decreasing since a high in 2020, and only 17 new concerns were discussed in 2023 ([Chart B.1](#)). Of the 57 previously raised STCs discussed in 2023, 43 (75%) were raised for the first time in 2020 or later, and only 14 (25%) were raised before 2020. Thirty-three (58%) of these 57 STCs have been discussed five times or more since they were first raised. One of these STCs has been raised 49 times.

3.20. Despite the high number of notifications circulated every year ([Chart A.1](#)), only seven<sup>35</sup> of the 17 new STCs raised in 2023 referred specifically to SPS notifications. For instance, while 133 COVID-19 related SPS notifications and documents had been submitted since the beginning of the pandemic until December 2023, only two new COVID-19 related STCs have been raised in the Committee since the beginning of the pandemic, and only one of these has been raised again in 2023.<sup>36</sup>

3.21. As mentioned earlier, a total of 67 (new and previously raised) STCs were discussed in 2023. In 2023, 20 Members (12% of the membership) raised at least one STC, compared to eight Members in 2022. These include 12 (four developed and eight developing) Members who raised at least one new STC and 18 (six developed and 12 developing) Members who raised at least one of the 57 previously raised STCs. Seven previously raised STCs, discussed three times or more, have gathered the support of 10 Members or more.<sup>37</sup> Concerning Members responding, the 17 new STCs were raised against measures maintained by 15 (seven developed and eight developing) Members. The 57 previously discussed STCs were raised against measures maintained by 23 (five developed and 17 developing) Members. Additionally, one STC was raised again against measures maintained by at least 15 Members.

3.22. Out of the 17 new STCs raised in 2023, six (35%) refer to animal health and zoonoses<sup>38</sup>, noting that this category includes issues that are also relevant from a food safety perspective; three (18%) relate primarily to food safety; five (29%) refer to other concerns; and three (18%) refer to plant health. [Chart B.11](#) shows all new and previous STCs raised in the Committee in 2023 compared to all STCs discussed between 1995 and 2022, by primary subject keywords assigned. In 2023, we can see a sharp increase in the STCs related to other concerns, which mainly refer to issues related to control, inspection and approval procedures, and a slight increase in the new STCs related to animal health. Similarly, we can see a sharp decrease in the percentage of new STCs relating to food safety and a milder decrease in STCs related to plant health, compared with the period 1995-2022.

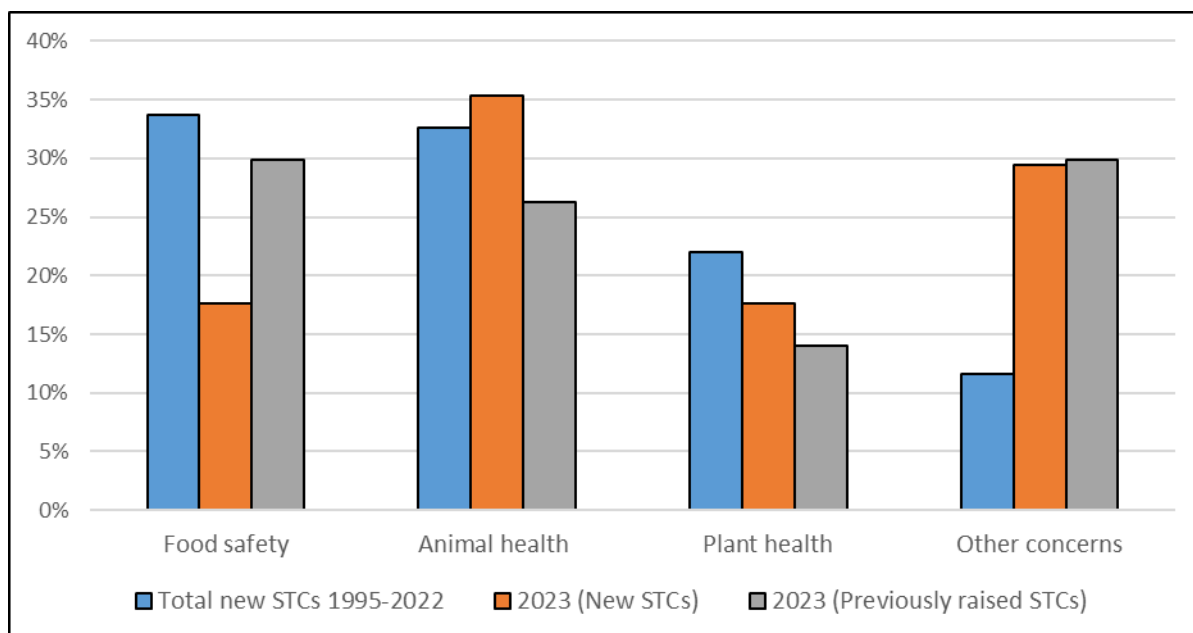
<sup>35</sup> These STCs were [559](#), [560](#), [566](#), [567](#), [571](#), [573](#) and [574](#).

<sup>36</sup> These STCs were [487](#) (raised ten times since 2020) and [488](#) (raised once in 2020).

<sup>37</sup> STCs [382](#), [446](#), [448](#), [485](#), [487](#), [501](#) and [534](#).

<sup>38</sup> Among the new STCs raised in 2023 with animal health as a primary keyword, ASF ([563](#)), avian influenza ([562](#) and [573](#)), BSE ([561](#) and [564](#)), and foot and mouth disease ([564](#) and [568](#)) are the major diseases of concern.

**Chart B.11 – New and previous STCs raised in 2023, by primary subject keywords, compared to all STCs raised between 1995 and 2022 (percentage)**



### 3.2.1 Resolution of STCs in 2023

3.23. In July 2023, Brazil reported on the resolution of two STCs: STC [ID 482](#) (Peru's import restrictions on pork) and [ID 489](#) (Mexico's import restrictions on pork). Prior to the resolution of STC [ID 489](#), in 2022 Brazil had requested the Good Offices of the Chair under Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement and the *ad hoc* consultations procedure ([G/SPS/61](#)) (see [Section 3.2.2](#)).

3.24. Since 2013, the Secretariat periodically contacts Members to seek information regarding the status (resolved, partially resolved or not resolved) of their STCs that have not been raised for two years. The latest exercise was conducted in 2022, and the results were circulated in document [G/SPS/GEN/2062/Rev.1](#). Members are invited to inform of the status of the STCs they have raised to ensure that WTO databases are kept updated. The Secretariat will contact Members again in 2024 for this purpose.

### 3.2.2 Good offices of the Chair

3.25. In 2022, Brazil requested the Good Offices of the Chair under Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement and the *ad hoc* consultations procedure ([G/SPS/61](#)) regarding issues pertaining to the export of swine meat to Mexico, which were related to three previously discussed STCs (IDs [263](#), [271](#) and [489](#)). STC [ID 489](#) had been raised at all three SPS Committee meetings held in 2022. On 27 October 2022, Mexico provided a response in accordance with paragraph 2.3 of the *ad hoc* consultations procedure. Mexico rejected the request because it had published the requirements to be met for the importation of pork from Brazil to Mexico and thus was of the view that it was not necessary to continue with the Good Offices of the Chair.<sup>39</sup> In July 2023, Brazil informed the Committee that STC [ID 489](#) was considered as resolved.

3.26. In November 2023, Brazil requested the Good Offices of the Chair under Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement and the *ad hoc* consultations procedure ([G/SPS/61](#)) regarding issues pertaining to the export of meat, pork, poultry, milk and dairy products, genetic material and live cattle to Nigeria ([G/SPS/GEN/2189](#)), an issue previously discussed under STC [ID 523](#). Nigeria did not provide a written response to Brazil's request.

<sup>39</sup> Brazil's request and Mexico's response to the request were circulated in documents [G/SPS/GEN/2078](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/2079](#).



## 4 PART C – OTHER TRANSPARENCY-RELATED ASPECTS

### 4.1 Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement

4.1. In November 2023, the SPS Committee adopted the proposed process for the Sixth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement<sup>40</sup>, which will take place throughout 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in early 2025. Two deadlines (January and April 2024) have been established for Members to submit written proposals for consideration during the Review. Several of the proposals received in January referred to transparency, in particular to the use of IT tools such as the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) and eAgenda, the improvement of the notification template and the consideration of comments by notifying Members.<sup>41</sup> The Secretariat is organizing a workshop on transparency to be held in March 2024 (see [Section 4.2](#)).

#### 4.1.1 Transparency recommendations in the Fifth Review

4.2. The Report of the Fifth Review<sup>42</sup> was adopted at the June 2020 Committee meeting. The Report contains the following recommendation on Notification Procedures and Transparency (paragraph 7.13):

- a. Members are encouraged to clearly indicate in their SPS Committee notifications when a measure has been notified to another Committee.<sup>43</sup> Members should include this information under the point of the notification format titled "Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available".

4.3. The Report also contains the following recommendations on National SPS Coordination Mechanisms (paragraph 6.7):

- a. Members are encouraged to implement appropriate national coordination mechanisms to enable consultation and communication between relevant technical and trade policy experts to enable the development of coordinated SPS positions that are consistent with the obligations of the SPS Agreement. Members are further encouraged to consider ways to strengthen internal coordination on SPS matters.
- b. Members should continue to share experiences on their national coordination mechanisms and discuss strategies and approaches to improve SPS coordination and engagement at the national level with the aim of strengthening implementation of the SPS Agreement, including resolving specific trade concerns.
- c. The Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a collection of resources that can be useful for Members in implementing their national coordination mechanisms, starting with those mentioned at the 2019 Workshop on Transparency and Coordination, and including additional resources as suggested by Members.<sup>44</sup>

### 4.2 Technical assistance and workshops

4.4. In light of the steadily increasing volume of documents circulated, managing the flow of notifications and coordinating at the national level on SPS matters is a challenge for many Members. This is one of the areas where Members have sought technical assistance and guidance on best practices.

4.5. The WTO Secretariat regularly provides hands-on training on all its tools, as part of its technical assistance programmes.<sup>45</sup> Some Members significantly increase their notification activity following a dedicated training on transparency. Similarly, some Members have updated the contact details of

<sup>40</sup> The proposed process is contained in document [G/SPS/W/346](#).

<sup>41</sup> Detailed information on the Sixth Review and on the proposals received is available in the dedicated page: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/review\\_sps\\_agreement\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/review_sps_agreement_e.htm).

<sup>42</sup> [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

<sup>43</sup> Please refer to section 2.7 of the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (Article 7) in document [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), which makes reference to notifying a regulation containing SPS and TBT measures under both the SPS and TBT Agreements.

<sup>44</sup> See document [G/SPS/GEN/1850/Rev.1](#).

<sup>45</sup> See the latest version of the [G/SPS/GEN/521](#) document series.

their NNAs and NEPs available in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) (see [Section 4.3.1.1.2](#)) following dedicated trainings, further facilitating communication between Members.

4.6. Additionally, transparency workshops, usually organized every other year, have provided highly interactive training on the use of the SPS IT tools. Likewise, these dedicated trainings have also led to an increased use of these tools. Following the Workshop on Transparency organized in 2022<sup>46</sup>, aimed at providing an update on recent developments related to transparency and present the main functions of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), another Workshop on Transparency will be held on 18-19 March 2024.<sup>47</sup> The aim of the workshop will be to enhance the implementation of SPS transparency provisions, and to exchange experiences on the use of online transparency tools, including the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), including for coordination at the national level.

4.7. The first edition of the new SPS Transparency Champions Course, launched in October 2022<sup>48</sup>, concluded with a Follow-up Session held in June 2023.<sup>49</sup> This new technical assistance initiative followed a unique and cohesive three-part structure, incorporating theoretical training, practical exercises, and the implementation of action plans in participants' countries. During the first and second part of the course, 18 officials from 13 English-speaking African countries enhanced their understanding of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement and elaborated action plans to address challenges/difficulties encountered in their respective countries. Participants who implemented action plans and submitted periodic progress reports then returned to Geneva in 2023, to report on actions they took to improve the SPS transparency framework in their countries over an estimated six-month period. This dedicated training led to concrete results such as an increase in the number of notifications submitted by Members participating in the course and improved coordination in national institutions dealing with transparency, among others.

4.8. In October 2023, the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session (CTD-SS) held a thematic session to discuss the S&D treatment in the SPS (and TBT) Agreements and developing Members' related challenges, with special focus on transparency provisions, the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), as well as transparency related capacity building work.

4.9. All the information from previous workshops and thematic sessions on transparency and dedicated trainings organized by the Secretariat is available in the [Events, workshops and training](#) page on the SPS gateway.

### 4.3 SPS IT tools

#### 4.3.1 The ePing SPS&TBT Platform

4.10. The new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) was [officially launched](#) on 13 July 2022, with the participation of senior officials from the three ePing partner agencies, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Trade Center (ITC) and the WTO.<sup>50</sup> The [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) integrates all previous SPS and TBT transparency tools into a single platform. The Platform allows searches of SPS (and TBT) notifications, STCs and other documents, as well as contact information of NNAs and NEPs. Registered users benefit from additional features, including receiving email alerts on notifications on products and/or markets of interest. Officials with additional rights can use the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) to submit notifications to the WTO, update NNA and NEP contact details, and, on a voluntary basis, disseminate their comments/replies on notifications.<sup>51</sup> Extracting data from a single source reduces errors and maintenance costs. Additionally, under the single sign-on system recently developed by the WTO Secretariat, users can access all WTO databases to which they have rights with a single set of credentials. Since the beginning of the project in 2021, the SPS (and TBT) Committee has been regularly informed of

<sup>46</sup> Information on this workshop, including the programme, the presentations and the recording of the session, is available in [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/workshop\\_transparency\\_20jun22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/workshop_transparency_20jun22_e.htm). The report is contained in document G/SPS/R/106.

<sup>47</sup> Information on this workshop, including the programme, is available in [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/sps\\_1803202410\\_e/sps\\_1803202410\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_1803202410_e/sps_1803202410_e.htm).

<sup>48</sup> See [WTO | 2022 News items - DG Okonjo-Iweala stresses importance of SPS, TBT transparency to facilitate trade](#).

<sup>49</sup> A similar course was also offered in the TBT area.

<sup>50</sup> See [G/SPS/GEN/2058-G/TBT/GEN/336](#).

<sup>51</sup> See document [G/SPS/GEN/2163-G/TBT/GEN/363](#) for more information on the different levels of access for ePing users. Additional information is available in [Members' transparency toolkit](#).

progress made in the development of the Platform. The following paragraphs summarize the functions that are integrated in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#).<sup>52</sup> New training materials will be developed in due course.

#### 4.3.1.1 Functionalities

4.11. Video tutorials on the main functionalities of the Platform, as well as some frequently asked questions and other relevant resources are available on the [More info](#) tab.

##### 4.3.1.1.1 Notifications, STCs and other documents

4.12. The [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) integrates the search functions for [notifications](#), [STCs](#) and [other documents](#). The [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) also includes the possibility to search both [notifications and STCs](#) at the same time, and allows searches across both SPS and TBT domains.

4.13. Since notifications are increasingly being submitted online (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)), the information available is more complete and harmonized, further improving the quality of searches. Members can [register to the Platform](#) to have access to additional features, such as saving filters, defining favourite notifications, or accessing chats on specific notifications.

4.14. For searches on STCs, the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) mirrors the data contained in the WTO [TCD](#), available to Members since February 2021.<sup>53</sup> This advanced analytical tool for STCs integrates concerns raised in the SPS, TBT, Market Access and Import Licensing committees. It may incorporate concerns raised in other WTO bodies in the future. The mirroring of the TCD in the new Platform allows for data to be extracted from a single source, ensuring consistency and reducing maintenance costs and errors. For more advanced searches, the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) will redirect users to the [TCD](#), which contains more granular information, organized on a per meeting basis, facilitating in-depth analysis and reporting. The [TCD](#) also includes Members' profiles and allows users to explore and visualize results by objectives, keywords, and HS codes, among other options. Similarly, the database relates STCs that may be linked to other concerns discussed in the SPS and other WTO Committees, based on Members' statements or on discussions held in Committee meetings, as well as on notifications and measures at issue. This analytical tool is fed from the data available in [eAgenda](#) and has been manually completed with historical data on trade concerns available in the summary reports of SPS Committee meetings.

4.15. In response to a survey undertaken in 2021<sup>54</sup>, a mobile ePing application was made available in the second half of 2022, which allows users to access some of the functionalities of the Platform.

##### 4.3.1.1.2 Contact details of NNAs and NEPs

4.16. [Contact details of NNAs and NEPs](#) are also available in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Members are responsible, through their notification admin (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)), of updating their contact details.

##### 4.3.1.1.3 Outreach/Communication function

4.17. The [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) includes a publicly available alert system for SPS and TBT notifications. By filling a registration form, users can identify particular products and/or markets of interest and subscribe to receive email alerts regarding SPS and TBT notifications. In addition, users continue to be able to share notifications, upload additional information and related documents, as well as participate in discussion forums. Additionally, an NNA/NEP management tool is available to facilitate domestic as well as international information sharing and discussion on notifications. Users from relevant institutions in charge of transparency can request outreach rights to benefit from

<sup>52</sup> Currently, the [Practical Manual for NNAs and NEPs](#), first circulated in 2011 and revised in 2018, offers guidance for governments to facilitate the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement. The Secretariat has prepared an updated [overview of the SPS and TBT IT tools](#). These materials will be reviewed in light of the on-going development on IT tools.

<sup>53</sup> The WTO TCD was launched in beta version in the margins of the February 2021 TBT Committee meeting and presented to the SPS Committee at its March 2021 meeting. The database is available at <https://tradeconcerns.wto.org/en>.

<sup>54</sup> See [G/SPS/GEN/1933-G/TBT/GEN/317](#).

additional features<sup>55</sup>, which include a chat function to discuss topics of their choice with other outreach admins. As such, the Platform continues to help public and private stakeholders, in particular small and medium enterprises, to track, consult and comment on measures that are being developed and adapt as necessary to changing regulatory conditions.

4.18. As of 31 December 2023, the number of registered users had grown to over 23,300 (including over 9,300 users from private sector) from 191 countries or territories, up from 19,500 users (including 7,700 users from the private sector) from 187 countries or territories at the end of 2022. Some of these users registered after a TA activity had been delivered in their country or their region, confirming the efficiency of TA activities to spread the word about the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) and get users started with the registration process and the subscription to receive email alerts. More than 40% of users receive daily or weekly email alerts of SPS and/or TBT notifications. Some additional functionalities, such as the national and international discussion fora and the chat for users with admin rights, are also of interest to many Members. In total, 438 ePing Outreach admin users were registered on the Platform, covering 130 countries and territories. In the case of SPS, a total of 214 Outreach admin users from 111 countries were registered.

#### 4.3.1.1.4 Online submission of notifications

4.19. Since March 2022, Members with the relevant rights can easily and accurately complete and submit all SPS notification formats via the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Increased online submission helps improving the amount and quality of information provided by Members in the various notification formats, as well as the information available for searches. For instance, among other features, the Platform includes all versions of the HS nomenclature. Also, notifications submitted online can be faster processed by the Secretariat and circulated to Members. As previously indicated, some regional groupings are currently submitting joint notifications through [ePing](#), circulated in one multi-symbol notification, and other regions are exploring the possibility of doing so.

4.20. Online submission of notifications requires registration. Upon registration, users may be granted with the following types of rights: notification drafting rights, allowing the user to draft a notification but not to submit it to the WTO; or notification submission rights, allowing the user to draft and submit notifications to the WTO.<sup>56</sup> Within a Member, these rights are granted by the notification admin, who can draft and submit notifications, grant these rights to the relevant users, and update the contact details for their NNAs and NEPs. Members should contact the Secretariat ([spscommittee@wto.org](mailto:spscommittee@wto.org)) to designate the SPS notification admin(s) to be granted with admin rights. As of 31 December 2023, 109 users from 76 countries or territories have received SPS notification admin rights. A total of 166 users benefit from drafting rights and 110 from submission rights. The large majority (99%) of SPS notifications are now submitted through the Platform. In 2023 two additional Members have started notifying online, raising to 67 the total number of Members who have officially submitted notifications through the Platform.

4.21. Following the launch of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), the Secretariat provided numerous dedicated trainings on online submission of notifications, including in the dedicated "notifications clinic", held virtually during the June 2022 SPS Workshop on Transparency.<sup>57</sup> The Secretariat has continued to provide dedicated training in numerous transparency activities delivered in 2023<sup>58</sup>, and is available to provide additional training upon request.

#### 4.3.1.1.5 Facts and Figures

4.22. Under the Facts & figures tab of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), users can visualize premade graphics and statistics for one specific Member or globally. [Member profiles](#) displays the NNA and NEP(s) contact details, graphics and data of the Member's notification activity, HS codes associated with SPS notifications, and Member's involvement in STCs. Users can also access trade policy review data if available, and other SPS documents submitted by a Member. The [notifications](#) tab allows

<sup>55</sup> See document [G/SPS/GEN/2163-G/TBT/GEN/363](#) for more information on the different levels of access for ePing users.

<sup>56</sup> See document [G/SPS/GEN/2163-G/TBT/GEN/363](#) for more information on the different levels of access for ePing users.

<sup>57</sup> Information on the Workshop on Transparency is available in the dedicated webpage: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/workshop\\_transparency\\_20jun22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/workshop_transparency_20jun22_e.htm).

<sup>58</sup> See the latest version of the [G/SPS/GEN/521](#) document series.

users to view a wide range of notifications statistics. Users can also check the [Definition of groups](#), either geographic/economic groups or by development status. For more specific information on STCs, the site redirects users to the [TCD](#).

#### 4.3.2 eAgenda

4.23. The [eAgenda](#) platform, launched in 2020, is a collaborative online tool meant to support the work of WTO bodies, including the SPS Committee. The SPS eAgenda platform allows Members, ahead of a meeting, to add interventions under any item for inclusion in the annotated draft agenda, including to raise and support STCs. Members can also upload statements ahead of their interventions, which streamlines the running of the Committee by the Secretariat, including interpreters. Additionally, Members can also choose from different options to share their statements with other Members, contributing to increased transparency prior, during or after the meeting. Similarly, at the end of the meeting users have the possibility to download statements uploaded by other Members, as well as decisions taken by the Committee, which facilitates reporting on the discussions. While it will remain a stand-alone tool, authorized eAgenda users can reach the system from the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), benefitting from the single sign-on system, without having to log in again.

4.24. As of December 2023, five Committees are now using eAgenda to prepare and run their meetings, and other Committees are currently exploring their use. In order to streamline its functioning, the different platforms are harmonized, whenever possible to respect the working procedures and the uniqueness of each Committee. A new practical guide on the functioning of the SPS eAgenda is available for registered users. It is updated as further improvements are implemented in the platform.

4.25. As of 31 December 2023, 394 users from 88 Members were registered in SPS eAgenda, of which 181 (46%) had reading rights only, allowing them to consult the proposed agenda for the meeting without being able to raise items nor upload statements. The Secretariat remains available to provide training upon request.

#### 4.4 Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

4.26. The [STDF](#) guide on the use of [Good Regulatory Practices \(GRPs\)](#) is targeted at SPS regulators and aims to strengthen and improve the design, development and review of SPS measures. The guide includes a focus on transparency, which is a cross-cutting principle of GRPs and relevant throughout the regulatory lifecycle of SPS measures. Transparency is embodied in various GRPs, such as stakeholder engagement (e.g., consultations), information dissemination, or cooperation and coordination mechanisms. The guide also provides an overview of the transparency tools available to help with consultations, information dissemination, publication, notifications, etc., including the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Delegates are encouraged to read and use STDF's GRP guide in efforts to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and overall fitness for purpose of their SPS measures.

4.27. The importance of transparency on SPS measures also features strongly in STDF's work on [Trade Facilitation](#), which identifies experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that minimizes transaction costs, while facilitating safe trade. For example, improving clarity on control, inspection and approval procedures is a simple step that can produce big benefits. If producers and traders must meet SPS requirements, they first need to be aware and understand what they are. Publication of SPS regulations, forms, and fees (preferably online) will open markets and support good governance. Regular public-private dialogue is also important, so that businesses (including MSMEs) know what is required of them, including when SPS regulations or procedures change.

4.28. Resources to address SPS needs are limited, which means that developing countries have to make difficult choices. The STDF's [P-IMA framework](#) offers an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes and link SPS investments to public policy goals such as export growth, agricultural productivity or poverty reduction. In this process, the framework encourages public-private dialogue, boosts transparency and accountability, and improves the economic efficiency of investment decisions. Many other projects developed and funded by the STDF also resulted in increased transparency levels by promoting inter-agency coordination

at the national and/or regional level, and by strengthening linkages between government agencies and the private sector.

4.29. Delegates are invited to contact the STDF Secretariat ([stdfsecretariat@wto.org](mailto:stdfsecretariat@wto.org)) to obtain further information on the work carried out by the STDF.

**Table B.2 – STCs (new or previously raised) discussed and resolved in the SPS Committee in 2023, organized in alphabetical order of Members responding to the concern<sup>59</sup>**

The table below contains all the STCs, new and previously raised, that were discussed in 2023, organized alphabetically by responding Member. The full list of STCs can be accessed [here](#).

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Australia	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Australia	<a href="#">559</a>	New	Australia's MRLs stricter than Codex standards in products of interest to India – Request to share risk assessment ( <a href="#">G/SPS/N/AUS/555</a> )	India		Food safety	22/3/2023 (0 times)	NR
Bolivia	<a href="#">530</a>	Subsequently raised	Bolivia's import restrictions on agricultural and livestock products	Peru		Plant health	03/11/2021 (6 times)	NR
Brazil	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Canada	<a href="#">568</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	Canada's restrictions on Brazilian pork from internationally recognized FMD free zones without vaccination	Brazil		Animal health	12/07/2023 (1 time)	NR
China	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
China	<a href="#">392</a>	Subsequently raised	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union		Animal health	15/07/2015 (18 times)	NR
China	<a href="#">406</a>	Subsequently raised	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union; United States	European Union; United States	Animal health	16/03/2016 (20 times)	NR
China	<a href="#">485</a>	Subsequently raised	China's administrative measures for registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food (26 November 2019)	Australia; Canada; European Union; Japan; United States	>10 Members	Other concerns	24/06/2020 (10 times)	NR

<sup>59</sup> Please note that a hyperlink in the ID number redirects to the corresponding STC in the [TCD](#).



Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
China	487	Subsequently raised	China's actions related to COVID-19 that affect trade in food and agricultural products	Australia; Canada; European Union; India; Japan; Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei; United States	>10 Members	Food safety	05/11/2020 (9 times)	NR
China	506	Subsequently raised	China's proposed new health certificate format for shrimp imports	India		Other concerns	25/03/2021 (5 times)	NR
China	516	Subsequently raised	China's delay in approving requests for new listing and reinstatement of export establishments	Australia; Canada; European Union; Japan; United States	Canada; European Union; Norway; United Kingdom; United States	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (8 times)	NR
China	532	Subsequently raised	China's import suspension of fresh fruits	Chinese Taipei		Plant health	03/11/2021 (6 times)	NR
China	561	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	China's suspension of beef imports due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) restrictions	Canada	European Union	Animal health	22/03/2023 (2 times)	NR
China	562	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	China's import restrictions on heat-treated pet food containing poultry ingredients due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	Canada		Animal health	22/03/2023 (2 times)	NR
China	574	New	Import restrictions on aquatic products after the discharge of ALPS treated water	Japan		Food safety	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
Ecuador	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Ecuador	498	Subsequently raised	Ecuador's import restrictions on grapes and onions	Peru		Food safety	05/11/2020 (7 times)	NR
Egypt	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
European Union	356	Subsequently raised	EU phytosanitary measures on citrus black spot	South Africa	Argentina; Brazil; Zambia	Plant health	27/06/2013 (5 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
European Union	<a href="#">382</a>	Subsequently raised	European Union legislation on endocrine disruptors	Argentina; China; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	> 50 Members	Food safety	25/03/2014 (26 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">442</a>	Subsequently raised	EU Commission Decision 2002/994/EC on animal products	China		Food safety	12/07/2018 (4 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">446</a>	Subsequently raised	EU review of legislation on veterinary medicinal products	Argentina; United States	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Japan; Norway; Paraguay; Uruguay	Food safety	12/07/2018 (12 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">448</a>	Subsequently raised	EU MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, buprofezin, chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-methyl, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, mancozeb, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxymid	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	> 25 Members	Food safety	01/11/2018 (14 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">503</a>	Subsequently raised	EU restrictions on exports of chocolate and cocoa products due to the application of the Commission Regulation (EU) N° 488/2014 of 12 May 2014 Amending Regulation (EC) N° 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in foodstuff	Peru	Colombia; Ecuador; Indonesia; Malaysia	Food safety	05/11/2020 (9 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">518</a>	Subsequently raised	EU's classification of 'anthraquinone' as a pesticide and the MRL for imported tea	India		Food safety	14/07/2021 (2 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
European Union	<a href="#">526</a>	Subsequently raised	EU delays in authorizing imports of Samgyetang (Korean ginseng chicken soup)	Korea		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (6 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">533</a>	Subsequently raised	EU restrictions on spice imports and other food products due to European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2246 of 15 December 2021	India		Food safety	22/06/2022 (3 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">534</a>	Subsequently raised	EU import tolerances for certain pesticides to achieve environmental outcomes in third countries	Australia; China; Colombia; Ecuador; India; United States	> 15 Members	Other concerns	23/03/2022 (5 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">543</a>	Subsequently raised	EU recognition of Mexico as a country with WOAHP negligible BSE risk	Mexico	Brazil	Animal health	22/06/2022 (3 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">546</a>	Subsequently raised	EU notifications of matriline and oxytetracycline in honey	China		Food safety	22/06/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">549</a>	Subsequently raised	EU regulation No. 396/2005 setting pesticide MRLs in food and feed of plant and animal origin	China; India	Argentina; Brazil; Canada; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Guatemala; Israel; Paraguay; Uruguay	Other concerns	09/11/2022 (3 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">550</a>	Subsequently raised	EU Commission proposal for reduction of the current MRL for "nicotine" for imported tea from India ( <a href="#">G/SPS/N/EU/581</a> )	India		Food safety	09/11/2022 (3 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">551</a>	Subsequently raised	EU Regulations 2021/405 and 2017/185 on vitamin D3	China		Other concerns	09/11/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">552</a>	New	EU increased sampling frequency for inspection of farmed shrimps and newly listed fishery establishments not permitted to export aquaculture products	India		Other concerns	09/11/2022 (3 times)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">558</a>	Subsequently raised	EU import restrictions on ostrich meat	South Africa		Animal health	09/11/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	<a href="#">571</a>	New	EU <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> surveillance requirements for third countries	South Africa		Plant health	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Hong Kong, China	574	New	Import restrictions on aquatic products after the discharge of ALPS treated water	Japan		Food safety	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
India	501	Subsequently raised	India's requirement for certificate for Non-GM origin and GM-free status	China; European Union; United States	>10 Members	Food safety	05/11/2020 (9 times)	NR
India	553	Subsequently raised	India's Draft Food Safety and Standards (Import) Amendment Regulation	European Union	Canada; Japan; New Zealand; United States	Other concerns	09/11/2022 (3 times)	NR
India	554	Subsequently raised	India's Order related to requirement of health certificate accompanied with imported food consignment of milk, pork, fish and related products	European Union	Australia; Canada; Chile; Japan; New Zealand; Norway; Switzerland; United States	Other concerns	09/11/2022 (3 times)	NR
India	565	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	India's approval procedures to import plants, animals and their products	European Union		Other concerns	22/03/2023 (2 times)	NR
India	566	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	India's undue delay in importing twelve species of fresh mushrooms	Korea		Other concerns	22/03/2023 (2 times)	NR
India	572	New	India's suspension of imports of apples, pears and marigold seeds	China		Plant health	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
Indonesia	441	Subsequently raised	Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products	European Union; Russian Federation	Brazil; Philippines; Russian Federation; United States	Other concerns	12/07/2018 (15 times)	NR
Japan	567	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	Japan's approval procedures to import plant products	European Union		Plant health	15/11/2023 (1 time)	NR
Jordan	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Korea	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Korea	393	Subsequently raised	Korea's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union	Russian Federation	Animal health	16/07/2015 (13 times)	NR
Korea	456	Subsequently raised	Korea's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union	Russian Federation	Other concerns	21/03/2019 (5 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Korea	490	Subsequently raised	Korea's lack of progress on pending applications for authorization of beef imports	European Union	Russian Federation	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (6 times)	NR
Korea	557	Subsequently raised	Korea's requirement of a health certificate with a declaration of aquatic disease status	India		Other concerns	09/11/2022 (3 times)	NR
Macao, China	574	New	Import restrictions on aquatic products after the discharge of ALPS treated water	Japan		Food safety	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
Malaysia	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Mexico	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Mexico	489	Reported as resolved in 2023	Mexico's import restrictions on pork	Brazil		Animal health	05/11/2020 (6 times)	R
Mexico	563	New (subsequently raised in 2023)	Mexico's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union		Animal health	22/03/2023 (2 times)	NR
Morocco	548	Subsequently raised	Morocco's import ban on ornamental plants	European Union		Plant health	22/06/2022 (3 times)	NR
Nigeria	523	Subsequently raised	Nigeria's import restrictions on meat, pork, poultry, milk and dairy products, genetic material and live cattle	Brazil		Other concerns	14/07/2021 (4 times)	NR
New Zealand	560	New	New Zealand's amendment of MRLs for cyantraniliprole, tetracyclines and trichlorfon ( <a href="#">G/SPS/N/NZL/695</a> )	India		Food safety	22/03/2022 (0 times)	NR
Panama	509	Subsequently raised	Panama's undue delays in the renewal of authorizations for plants of fishery and livestock enterprises	Peru; European Union	Chile; Costa Rica; European Union	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (8 times)	NR
Panama	512	Subsequently raised	Panama's restrictions regarding the procedure to regain access for Peruvian potatoes and onions	Peru	Costa Rica	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (6 times)	NR
Peru	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Peru	<a href="#">482</a>	Reported as resolved in 2023	Peru's import restrictions on pork	Brazil		Other concerns	24/06/2020 (2 times)	R
Peru	<a href="#">544</a>	Subsequently raised	Peru's non-application of regionalization for African swine fever	European Union	Brazil	Animal health	22/06/2022 (4 times)	NR
Philippines	<a href="#">466</a>	Subsequently raised	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	European Union; Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Animal health	07/11/2019 (11 times)	NR
Qatar	<a href="#">529</a>	Subsequently raised	Qatar's new import rules for dairy products	European Union	New Zealand	Food safety	03/11/2021 (6 times)	NR
Russian Federation	<a href="#">508</a>	Subsequently raised	Russian Federation - Procedures for authorizing units eligible for export of fish and fish products to Eurasian Customs Union	India		Other concerns	25/03/2021 (5 times)	NR
Russian Federation	<a href="#">574</a>	New	Import restrictions on aquatic products after the discharge of ALPS treated water	Japan		Food safety	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
Saudi Arabia	<a href="#">486</a>	Subsequently raised	Saudi Arabia's temporary suspension of Brazilian poultry exporting establishments	Brazil	Ukraine	Food safety	24/06/2020 (8 times)	NR
South Africa	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
South Africa	<a href="#">431</a>	Subsequently raised	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union	Argentina; United Kingdom; United States	Animal health	02/11/2017 (16 times)	NR
South Africa	<a href="#">564</a>	New	South Africa's delays in granting SPS access for poultry, beef, pork, fish and seafood	Russian Federation		Animal health	22/03/2023 (0 times)	NR
Chinese Taipei	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
Chinese Taipei	<a href="#">521</a>	Subsequently raised	Chinese Taipei's import restrictions on poultry and beef	Brazil		Other concerns	14/07/2021 (6 times)	NR
Thailand	<a href="#">539</a>	Subsequently raised	Thailand's sanitary requirements on "wet blue" leather imports	Brazil		Other concerns	23/03/2022 (5 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2023	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Thailand	573	New	Thailand's HPAI restrictions on live poultry and poultry meat	Brazil		Animal health	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
United States	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*
United States	439	Subsequently raised	US import restrictions on apples and pears	European Union		Plant health	01/03/2018 (16 times)	NR
United States	471	Subsequently raised	US non-recognition of the pest-free status in the European Union for Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle	European Union		Plant health	24/06/2020 (10 times)	NR
United States	542	Subsequently raised	US undue delays in opening its citrus market	Brazil		Plant health	22/06/2022 (2 times)	NR
United States	569	New	US delays in the authorization of sweet citrus fruits	Argentina		Other concerns	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
United States	570	New	US undue delays in the publication of import requirements for table grapes under a systems approach	Chile		Other concerns	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
Viet Nam	575	New	Viet Nam's undue delays in the authorization of beef imports	Mexico		Other concerns	15/11/2023 (0 times)	NR
Certain Members	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (48 times)	PR*

\* STC 193 is considered as resolved for Philippines; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Türkiye; and Ukraine.



**Table B.3 - STCs where substantive action occurred under the DSU in 2023<sup>60</sup>**

STC ID <sup>b</sup>	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Member(s) responding	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
185	Restrictions due to avian influenza	European Union; United States	Australia; Canada; European Union; Switzerland; United States	India	Animal health	17/03/2004 (16 times)	PR / <a href="#">DS 430</a>
356	EU phytosanitary measures on citrus black spot	South Africa	Argentina; Brazil; Zambia	European Union	Plant Health	26/06/2013 (5 times)	NR / <a href="#">DS 613</a>
495	Panama's import restrictions on animal and plant products	Colombia; Costa Rica		Panama	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (0 times)	NR / <a href="#">DS 599</a>

<sup>b</sup> Panel proceedings occurred in the context of the WTO dispute settlement system. For more information, see [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/dispu\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm).

<sup>60</sup> Please note that a hyperlink in the ID number redirects to the corresponding STC in the [TCD](#) for further details on the concern.