



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY DECLARATION FOR THE TWELFTH
WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: RESPONDING TO
MODERN SPS CHALLENGES (WT/MIN(22)/27)**

INITIAL TIMELINE FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME

1. The SPS Declaration for MC12, adopted by Ministers in June 2022, instructs the SPS Committee to carry out a work programme, open to all Members and Observers. The Committee is to address the outcomes of this work programme and report on key findings and action undertaken as a result of this work to the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13) with recommendations, as appropriate.
2. The work will be carried out in the SPS Committee. In between meetings of the SPS Committee, Members have the possibility to work together in thematic groups, led by stewards/co-stewards, on specific themes identified in paragraph 8 of the SPS Declaration. The stewards/co-stewards will play the role of neutral facilitators of the work in the thematic groups. The thematic groups will be open to all interested Members, who will be able to join any of the groups at any time.¹ These thematic groups will suggest ideas and/or submit proposals for discussion in the SPS Committee.
3. The initial timeline below (until November 2022) is proposed for Members' consideration, recognizing that some of the dates may need to be modified in light of other activities and/or resource constraints.² Based on inputs from Members, the Secretariat will prepare a more complete timeline for the work programme until MC13 for adoption at the November meeting of the SPS Committee.

Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference, 12-17 June 2022

- Adoption by consensus of the SPS Declaration: Responding to Modern Challenges

Informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, 22-24 June 2022

- Preliminary discussions on the work programme for the SPS Declaration

22 July 2022

- Members indicate their interest in participating in work of thematic groups on specific topics identified in the SPS Declaration work programme
- Members propose colleagues to act as stewards/co-stewards for thematic groups
- Members submit suggestions for the organization or the work programme until MC13

Late July 2022

- Secretariat circulates list of Members that volunteered to participate in the thematic groups on specific topics identified in the SPS Declaration work programme, and possible stewards/co-stewards, in consultation with the Chairperson
- Secretariat circulates a draft timeline for the work programme until MC13, based on inputs from Members, in consultation with the Chairperson

September – Early October 2022

- Thematic groups meet virtually to develop a common understanding regarding the scope of their work

¹ Any meeting times will be communicated to all SPS Committee delegates; work may also take place in writing.

² It was initially circulated as [RD/SPS/210](#) on 24 June 2022. This version incorporates a first round of comments from Members.

- Members submit comments on the draft timeline for the work programme until MC13
- Informal SPS Committee consultations, co-stewards to report on work in thematic groups
- Timeline for the work programme until MC13 finalized

By 19 October 2022³

- Stewards/co-stewards submit proposals/observations from thematic groups on topics identified in the SPS Declaration work programme, for discussion at the November informal meeting of the SPS Committee
- Secretariat circulates proposals/observations from thematic groups

Informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, 9-11 November 2022

- Discussion of the proposals submitted by thematic groups in the informal meeting, with reporting to the formal meeting of the Committee
 - Timeline for the work programme until MC13 adopted by the SPS Committee
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³ 19 October is the deadline for submission of documents for the SPS Committee meeting on 9-11 November 2022.