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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

COMMUNICATION FROM EGYPT

Revision

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, dated 12 September 2022, has been received from the delegation of Egypt.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, (hereinafter referred to as the TBT Agreement) after having been accepted by the presidential decree No 72 of 1995, and approved by the Egyptian People's Assembly on 16 April 1995, came into force for the Arab Republic of Egypt on 30 June 1995, and were incorporated into the domestic law.

2 EGYPTIAN WTO/TBT ENQUIRY POINT

2.1. The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (hereinafter referred to as EOS) has been designated as the Egyptian WTO/TBT Enquiry Point. The address, telephone, fax and e-mail of the enquiry point are as follows:

16 Tadreeb El - Modarrebeen St., Ameriya, Cairo – EGYPT

Telephone: + (202) 22845522; + (02) 22845524

Fax: + (202) 22845504

E-mail: eos.tbt@eos.org.eg, eos@idsc.net.eg

Website: www.eos.org.eg

Chairman: Acting as a Head of the EOS, Dr.Eng. Kaled Hassan Sofy.

2.2. The principal responsibilities of the Egyptian WTO/TBT Enquiry Point include responding to technical enquiries regarding technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment procedures and fulfilling notification obligations under the TBT Agreement.

3 TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

3.1. Technical regulations based on standards are submitted to the Minister of Trade and Industry for approval and publication. There are other Ministries involved in the preparation, issuance and implementation of specific technical regulations, such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA) and the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA).

3.2. The texts of the new adopted technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and all legal acts falling under the scope of TBT Agreement are published in the Egyptian official Gazette.

3.3. The expected length of time for presenting comments on draft technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures by other WTO Members is 60 days, that for certain cases (depending on the urgency consideration) where this period could be extended or reduced.

4 STANDARDS

4.1. EOS is the sole authority responsible for issuing standards in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- a. EOS has accepted the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards;
- b. The work programme on draft standards is available at EOS website and is also available at ISO website (WTO ISO Standards Information Gateway); and can be submitted upon request;
- c. All Egyptian standards are harmonized with international standards according to ISO/IEC Guide 21;
- d. The reference for Egyptian Standards are international standards (e.g., ISO, Codex) or any other reference clarified in the Ministerial Decree No.102/2022 or domestic studies may be added;
- e. List of adopted standards are published in the Egyptian official Gazette, the EOS magazine, on the EOS website <https://www.eos.org.eg> as well as in the EOS standards catalogue.

4.2. EOS technical committees

- a. EOS has about 150 technical committees comprising professors of universities and research centres, private and public production sectors along with trade, health and agriculture sectors besides representatives of the industrial and commercial federations and businessmen societies (from 7 to 15 members) to guarantee impartiality and the participation of all concerned stakeholders in developing the standard.

4.3. The main functions of EOS technical committee:

- a. The formulation of Egyptian standard;
- b. Participation in the preparation of the annual plan of the EOS Working Program (Issuance of Egyptian Standards);
- c. Study the received comments and suggestions on the draft standards and carry out the required amendments according to the comments received from inside Egypt or from WTO Members (outgoing notifications) or any other international organization.

5 CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES:

5.1. The basic technical infrastructure for conformity assessment procedures in the Arab Republic of Egypt is:

- Testing labs: (Governmental, Private).
- Certification: (Product-Governmental (EOS), Private) (System –Private).
- Inspection: (Private, Governmental GOEIC (General Organization for Export and Import control)).
- Metrology: (Scientific, Industrial, Legal), (National Institute of Standards (NIS) and EOS).
- Accreditation: (Governmental (EGAC) Egypt Accreditation Council).

6 MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO);
- International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML);
- Codex Alimentarius (CODEX);
- African Regional Organization for standardization (ARSO);
- Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO);
- European Organization for Quality (EOQ);
- International Measurement Confederation (IMEKO);
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM international);
- European committee for standardization (CEN) as an affiliated member;
- Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

7 THE EGYPTIAN TBT NATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE

7.1. Egypt has established the TBT National Sub-Committee in 2003 under the auspices of the Supreme national committee headed by the Minister of Trade and Industry. The subcommittee is comprised of all the relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The sub-committee chairman is the head of the Egyptian organization of Standardization and Quality. The Technical Secretariat of the Supreme National Committee and the National TBT Subcommittee is the Central Department for World Trade Organization Affairs in the Trade Agreements and Foreign Trade sector.

7.2. The main functions of the TBT Sub-committee include inter-alia:

- Monitoring Egypt's rights and obligations under the WTO TBT agreement;
- Discussing TBT trade concerns both on the import and export sides;
- Ensuring appropriate coordination among all Egyptian entities involved in formulating Egypt's TBT measures;
- Making recommendations to the Minister of Trade and Industry concerning TBT matters of interest to Egypt.

7.3. Key agencies involved in TBT matters in Egypt include inter-alia:

- Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) (Head of TBT National Sub-committee);
- The Central Department for WTO Affairs- Trade Agreements and Foreign Trade sector;
- General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOIEC);
- The Egyptian accreditation Council (EGAC);
- Federation of Egyptian Industries;
- Ministry of Health and Population;
- Export Councils;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation;
- Ministry of Environment;
- National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA);
- Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA).

7.4. Recognizing the importance of transparency and predictability, Egypt has devised a national coordination mechanism established by the Prime Minister Decree No. 2489/2007 to ensure enhanced transparency on Egypt's TBT measures and addressing other WTO members TBT notifications. This mechanism has in fact enhanced the procedures to notify all Egyptian TBT related new measures as well as draft and modified ones, as evident from the increase in number of notifications.