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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

COMMUNICATION FROM RWANDA

Revision

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade has been received from Rwanda.

1. In accordance with Article 15.2. Of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and considering the decision of the TBT Committee of 1 July 1995, concerning the Statement on Implementation and Administration of the Agreement as contained in Documents G/TBT/1/Rev.10 of June 2011, the Republic of Rwanda submitted to the Committee this statement on the implementation and administration of the agreement in Rwanda.

2. The Government of Rwanda accepted with effect from 22 May 1996 the Agreement establishing the WTO and associated legal Instrument included in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 (including the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade).

3. In October 2010, the Government of Rwanda put in place a National Quality Policy. The two main objectives of the Policy are to strengthen the National Quality Infrastructure and to separate regulatory from Non Regulatory functions of RBS.

4. Effective from 1 August 2014, Rwanda Bureau of Standards (RBS) became Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) as per the law No. 50/2013 of 28 June 2013 Establishing and Determining its Mission, Organization and Functioning as published in the Rwandan Official Gazette No.30 of 29 July 2013.

5. Under the guidance of the Policy, and in line with international best practices, regulatory functions related to inspections initially carried out by former Rwanda Bureau of Standards were transferred to the Inspectorate Authority under the Ministry of Trade and Industry while Rwanda Standards Board mainly focus on Standards Development and Information Dissemination, Certification, Metrology and Quality Testing activities.

6. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the overall coordinating agency of the WTO/TBT Agreement, and ensures that the obligations under the Agreement are fulfilled. According to the requirements of the Agreement, the Ministry of Trade and Industry acts as the Notification Authority and the Rwanda Standards Board as the National Enquiry Point for WTO/TBT notifications.

7. The principal responsibility for the national Notification Authority is the fulfilment of the notifications obligations under the TBT Agreement while the responsibilities of the national Enquiry Point is responding to technical enquiries from other WTO Members regarding Rwanda's domestic regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures in force.

8. Notices concerning standards published by Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) and technical regulations adopted by Regulators and other Government institutions are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

9. Rwanda, through RSB accepted the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to the TBT Agreement) on 7 March 2005 under document G/TBT/CS/N/159.

10. All enquiries concerning Rwanda's domestic regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures in force should be addressed to:

Rwanda Standards Board
KK 15 Rd, 49
Kicukiro Centre
P.O.BOX: 7099
Kigali-Rwanda

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