



Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

THEMATIC SESSION ON TRANSPARENCY

18 JUNE 2019 (P.M.) - 19 JUNE 2019

Draft programme

At the conclusion of the Eighth Triennial Review, Members agreed to continue to hold thematic sessions in conjunction with the Committee's regular meetings, with a view to further deepening the Committee's exchange of experiences on specific topics, and to hold a session on transparency, including the Ninth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange,¹ in June 2019.²

At its meeting of 6-7 March 2019, the TBT Committee agreed to hold the thematic session on transparency over one and a half days, starting in the afternoon of Tuesday 18 June 2019, and to webcast the session. A first draft outline for the thematic session structured around Triennial Review recommendations on transparency as well as specific proposals from Members was circulated on 19 March 2019³ and revised further⁴ in light of discussions held during the Committee's informal meeting on 29 April 2019 as well as some additional proposals for speakers.⁵ This revision incorporates further proposals received to date. A final version will be circulated in advance of the thematic session, taking into account any additional comments or proposals.

The thematic session will be moderated by: *to be confirmed*.

1 GENERAL FUNCTIONING OF ENQUIRY POINTS

- a. *Update from the Secretariat on the validation of Enquiry Point contact information.*⁶
- b. **China:** *The working mechanisms of China on TBT transparency*, Mr. Yang Song, Director, National TBT/SPS Notification and Enquiry Center of the People's Republic of China.⁷
- c. **Kenya:** *Kenya's experience in managing notifications and comments*, speaker to be confirmed.⁸
- d. **Chinese Taipei:** *Practical experience of processing requests*, Mr. Li-Yu Wei, Associate Technical Specialist, Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection.⁹

¹ [G/TBT/1/Rev.13](#), para. 5.8.1.

² [G/TBT/41](#), para. 8.2.a.iv, footnote 296.

³ [JOB/TBT/303](#).

⁴ [JOB/TBT/303/Rev.1](#)

⁵ [JOB/TBT/273/Rev.3](#), paras. 3.1-3.2.

⁶ [G/TBT/41](#), para. 6.19.a.i.

⁷ [JOB/TBT/307](#).

⁸ [JOB/TBT/315](#).

⁹ [JOB/TBT/308](#).

- e. **Jamaica:** *Practical use of Enquiry Points and online tools to address SMEs enquiries for market access information*, Ms Ester Williams, Team Leader, Regional & International Trade Branch, Bureau of Standards Jamaica.¹⁰
- f. **United States:** *How communication between Enquiry Points can be used to reduce, clarify and resolve specific trade concerns*, Ms MaryAnn Hogan, United States Enquiry Point, National Institute of Standards and Technology.¹¹

2 ESTABLISHING WHETHER A MEASURE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED UNDER THE SPS AGREEMENT AND/OR TBT AGREEMENT¹²

- a. *Introduction by the Secretariat on scope of SPS and TBT Agreements and on procedural aspects regarding notification of measures that might contain relevant elements under both Agreements*
- b. **Brazil:** *Brazil's experience with notifying measures that contain elements covered under both the SPS and TBT Agreements*, representative of Inmetro.¹³
- c. **Brazil:** *Brazil's experience with incoming notifications of measures that contain elements covered under both the SPS and TBT Agreements*, representative of the Department of Non-Tariff Negotiations, Ministry of Agriculture.¹⁴
- d. **Canada:** *Canada's experiences with regulations containing elements under both the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements*, Ms Emma Pagotto, Analyst, Canadian Food Inspection Agency.¹⁵

3 TRACKING AND REACTING TO MEMBERS' MEASURES AND NOTIFICATIONS

- a. Accessing information on TBT measures and notifications
 - i. *Update from the WTO Secretariat on the SPS/TBT notification alert system ePing*.¹⁶
 - ii. *The Non-Tariff Measures Initiative: Enhancing transparency in SPS and TBT*, Christian Knebel, UNCTAD.¹⁷
 - iii. *Global Trade Helpdesk: Single entry point for trade-related information*, Mathieu Lorian, ITC.¹⁷
- b. **Australia:** *Increasing transparency and addressing non-tariff barriers (NTBs): Australia's experience*, speaker to be confirmed.¹⁸
- c. **European Union:** *The involvement of stakeholders in TBT notifications: the EU experience*, Celine Zaimoglu, EU TBT enquiry point coordinator.¹⁹
- d. **Viet Nam:** *Viet Nam's experience in handling Members' notifications*, Ms Phuong Nguyen Thi Mai, Head in charge of Notification & Enquiry Division, TBT Viet Nam Office.²⁰

¹⁰ [JOB/TBT/311](#).

¹¹ [JOB/TBT/305](#).

¹² [JOB/TBT/283](#); [JOB/TBT/273/Rev.3](#), para. 3.1.b.

¹³ [JOB/TBT/283](#).

¹⁴ [JOB/TBT/283](#).

¹⁵ [JOB/TBT/318](#).

¹⁶ [G/TBT/41](#), para. 6.19.a.ii.

¹⁷ [JOB/TBT/313](#).

¹⁸ [JOB/TBT/306](#).

¹⁹ [JOB/TBT/314](#).

²⁰ [JOB/TBT/312](#).

- e. **United States:** *Using a TBT Notification Alert System to engage the private sector in commenting on WTO Notifications: US experiences and practices*, Ms MaryAnn Hogan, United States Enquiry Point, National Institute of Standards and Technology.²¹
- f. **United States:** *Engaging industry in the TBT notification process to reduce trade concerns*, Ms Jamie Ferman, US Department of Commerce.²²
- g. **United States:** *Benefit of industry using tools like Notify U.S. and ePing*, Francine Lamoriello, Executive Vice President Global Strategies, Personal Care Products Council (PCPC).²³
- h. **Uganda:** *Use of ePing by the Enquiry point to disseminate and coordinate review of draft SPS and TBT measures in Uganda*, George Opiyo, Uganda National Bureau of Standards.²⁴
- i. **Trinidad and Tobago:** *Facilitating compliance with the TBT Agreement through the use of ePing*, Ms Janelle Teemal, Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards.²⁵

4 HANDLING OF COMMENTS, DISSEMINATION OF COMMENTS AND REPLIES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS

- a. **European Union:** *EU practice on the dissemination of comments and substantive replies on notified measures via online tools*, Ms Celine Zaimoglu, EU TBT enquiry point coordinator.²⁶
- b. **United States:** *How the United States evaluates and incorporates comments received in the rulemaking process*, Mr. Ravi Bharwani, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.²⁷

5 NOTIFICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF ADOPTED FINAL TEXTS:

- a. *Discussion of new addendum format based on WTO Secretariat draft.*²⁸
- b. *Update from the Secretariat regarding compilation of Members' websites containing final texts of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.*²⁹

6 TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- a. **United States:** *Notice & Comment and cooperation on other transparency best practices: US experience on cooperation in commercial dialogues and other initiatives*, Ms Sigrid Simpson, Senior International Trade Specialist, Good Regulatory Practices, US Department of Commerce.³⁰
- b. **United States:** *Experience assisting with the functioning of Enquiry Points in Africa via the Standards Alliance*, Ms Leslie McDermott, Director, International Development, American National Standards Institute.³¹

7 FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS IN BREAK-OUT GROUPS

7.1. The objective of the break out session is to facilitate a more interactive setting for delegations to exchange information and draw on the experiences of the large number of Enquiry Points and

²¹ [JOB/TBT/305](#).

²² [JOB/TBT/316](#).

²³ [JOB/TBT/316](#).

²⁴ [JOB/TBT/309](#).

²⁵ [JOB/TBT/317](#).

²⁶ [JOB/TBT/280](#); [JOB/TBT/273/Rev.3](#), para. 3.1.a.; [JOB/TBT/314](#).

²⁷ [JOB/TBT/305](#).

²⁸ [JOB/TBT/304](#); a draft will be circulated in advance of the thematic session.

²⁹ [JOB/TBT/41](#), 6.19.e.iii-iv.

³⁰ [JOB/TBT/305](#).

³¹ [JOB/TBT/305](#).

notification authorities who will be in attendance, including from developing countries and LDCs.³² Delegates will be invited to join the discussion groups. Each group will discuss a topic for about one hour, with assistance from a facilitator (names to be confirmed). The groups will then reconvene in the plenary, where the facilitators will provide a brief oral summary (5 minutes) of their groups' discussions. The Chairperson will open the floor for follow up questions and comments.

7.2. Topics for discussion:

- **Notification quality** (*Room E*): How to improve the quality and completeness of notifications (e.g. what are challenges and possible solutions related to identification of HS/ICS Codes, notification of regulations with SPS and TBT elements, indication of deviations from international standards, electronic access to draft/final texts and other relevant documents, inter-agency coordination, etc.).
- **Stakeholders** (*Room D*): How to engage stakeholders in assessing and responding to incoming notifications (e.g. use of ePing and other online tools, use of coordination mechanisms, contacts with trade associations, etc.).
- **Communication** (*Room S2*): How to enhance communication between Enquiry Points across Members to reduce trade tensions (e.g. facilitating information flow to pre-empt specific trade concerns, possible use of online tools such as ePing, ensuring institutional continuity, etc.).

8 CLOSING (IN PLENARY)

8.1. The moderator will provide an oral summary of the thematic session.

³² The WTO Secretariat is organizing a week-long TBT transparency workshop for Enquiry Points and notification authorities from developing countries and LDCs, which will run in parallel to the June TBT Committee meetings. Workshop participants will attend parts of the Committee meetings, including the transparency thematic session.