



## REPORT (2013) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its 59<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> regular meetings on 6-7 March, 19-20 June and 30-31 October 2013, respectively.<sup>1</sup> The 59<sup>th</sup> meeting was chaired by Mr. Salim Lahjomri (Morocco), and the 60<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> meetings were chaired by Mr. Jingo Kikukawa (Japan).

2. During these meetings, the Committee heard statements from Members regarding measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement, under Article 15.2. In total, since 1995, 126 Members have submitted at least one such statement. In addition, new specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement. The Committee also heard exchanges on several trade concerns that have been previously raised.

3. During the reporting period, the Committee held five thematic sessions on issues related to the operation and implementation of the Agreement: two thematic sessions were held on Good Regulatory Practice<sup>2</sup>; one on the subject of standards<sup>3</sup>; one on Special and Differential Treatment and Technical Assistance; and, one on Conformity Assessment Procedures.<sup>4</sup> The Committee also held its Seventh Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange on 18 June 2013.<sup>5</sup>

4. At the meeting on 6-7 March 2013, the Committee adopted its report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/33). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (hereafter "the Code"). This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in the period under review (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.17), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.19) and the 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory, prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

5. During the reporting period, representatives of the Codex, ISO, IEC, BIPM, UNECE, ITC, UNIDO, OIML, ITU and WHO updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> G/TBT/M/59, G/TBT/M/60 and G/TBT/M/61.

<sup>2</sup> G/TBT/GEN/143 and Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> G/TBT/GEN/144.

<sup>4</sup> G/TBT/GEN/155 and G/TBT/GEN/156.

<sup>5</sup> A summary report by the Secretariat is contained in the Annex to G/TBT/M/60. The Chairman's Report is contained in document G/TBT/GEN/151.