

REPORT (2001) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings on 30 March, 29 June and 9 October (G/TBT/M/23-25) respectively, and Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa (Lesotho) was Chairman. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of Members informed the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. Several measures were brought to the attention of the Committee by Members who raised concerns about the potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement of those measures.
2. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Committee carried out its Sixth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement under Article 15.3 as well as its Sixth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 of the Agreement) based on background documents G/TBT/10, WTO TBT Standards Code Directory (Sixth Edition), G/TBT/CS/1/Add.5 and G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.7.
3. In order to give Members the opportunity to discuss the activities and problems relating to information exchange and to review periodically how well notification procedures work, a Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange was held on 28 June. It was participated by persons responsible for information exchange, including persons responsible for enquiry points and notifications. At the meeting, a number of proposals were made for the consideration of the Committee.
4. Following the Second Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4 (G/TBT/9), the Committee continued discussions on a number of elements taken up during that Review. It started to develop a demand-driven Technical Cooperation programme by first designing a survey to assist developing country Members to identify and prioritise their specific needs in the TBT field. A number of Members submitted information on the technical assistance activities they needed or provided. At the twenty-fifth meeting, the Secretariat was requested to compile these submissions and to prepare a draft survey questionnaire to assist needs identification for the consideration of the Committee at its twenty-sixth meeting.
5. IEC, ISO, ITC, OIML, UNIDO, WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank were invited to update the Committee on their activities and provide information on the ways they sought to ensure effective participation of Members, and particularly of developing country Members, in their activities.
6. Representatives of the ACP, ALADI, EFTA, FAO, IEC, IMF, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIE, OIML, UNCTAD, UN/ECE, UNIDO, WHO, WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.