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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**STATEMENT BY COSTA RICA ON THE SANITARY STATUS OF  
BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)**

COMMUNICATION FROM COSTA RICA

The following communication, dated 11 July 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Costa Rica.

1. To facilitate safe international trade in animals and animal products, and at the request of member countries, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) may take official decisions regarding the risk and the animal health status of a member country with respect to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
2. During the 67<sup>th</sup> General Session the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a list of member countries, categorized by their BSE risk according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code).
3. During the 80<sup>th</sup> General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 25, which specified and updated the procedure for member countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases.
4. Costa Rica followed the procedures established by the OIE in Chapter 1.6 of the Terrestrial Code and the relevant provisions in Chapter 11.5 (BSE) in order to achieve official recognition with respect to BSE.
5. During the 81<sup>st</sup> General Session of the OIE in May 2013, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 20 – "Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries" – and included Costa Rica in the list of members recognized as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.5 of the Terrestrial Code.
6. In order to complete this hard-won achievement by the public and private sector, it is important that this status be recognized, and for this reason, we would ask that Members implement Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and document G/SPS/GEN/48.