



1 November 2018

(18-6874)

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

**FIFTH REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE  
APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, received on 30 October 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

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1. Belize takes this opportunity to thank the delegation of the United States for its comments circulated in document G/SPS/GEN/1655, dated 12 October 2018.
  2. Our review of the comments made by the delegation of the United States, in particular reference to our proposal as contained in paragraph 3.1 of G/SPS/GEN/1655, appears to indicate to us that there may have been a misunderstanding.
  3. The proposal as submitted by Belize in G/SPS/W/306 speaks specifically to the development of guidelines for the implementation of Article 13 of the SPS Agreement with the sole objective of assisting Members to comply with their legal obligations as it pertains to the provision.
  4. Our proposal for a thematic session or workshop on third party assurance schemes as an initial step is even more justified at this point. Whilst informal discussions in certain fora have been held on third party assurance as it relates to food safety, we are aware that in the phytosanitary realm, a draft standard: "Authorization of Entities to perform Phytosanitary Actions" is currently under review, subsequent to comments submitted by Members. It is our view that this further justifies the need for the Committee to prioritize and support work in this area.
  5. We conclude by urging Members to support either a workshop or thematic session on third party assurance schemes in 2019.
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