



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON EQUIVALENCE (PART 2)

MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2019
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA

PROGRAMME

In the context of the Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Canada submitted a proposal for the Committee to consider holding a workshop or thematic session on equivalence.¹ Australia and Brazil also submitted proposals on the subject, including examining the existing guidance on the recognition of equivalence (G/SPS/19/Rev.2).² At the Committee meeting in July 2018, many Members were in favour of a thematic session or workshop on equivalence.

The first part of a two-part thematic session on equivalence was held on 30 October 2018. It provided an opportunity to introduce the concept of equivalence, and for WTO Members to increase their awareness of the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement, Committee guidance, related jurisprudence, and equivalence from a TBT perspective. In addition, representatives of Codex, IPPC and OIE outlined the relevant international standards and explained how equivalence was applied in their areas.

The second part of this thematic session will focus on Members' experiences with the implementation of equivalence. It will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 18 March 2019, beginning at 10 a.m. in room CR.

Members are invited to provide comments on the draft programme, as well as to propose additional self-funded speakers for specific sessions, by 28 February 2019.

Chairperson: Ms Noncedo Vutula

1 MEMBER EXPERIENCES

1.1 Equivalence of SPS Measures

Member experiences and approaches to the recognition and implementation of equivalence of specific SPS measures or groups of SPS measures.

Speakers:

- Ms Shannon McMurtrey (FSIS), and Ms Mara Burr (FDA), **United States**
- Mr Kong Xiaobang, Director General, Customs Administration, **China**
- Ms Heather Holland, National Manager, Foreign Relations and Issues Management, **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

¹ G/SPS/W/302/Rev.1.

² G/SPS/W/299, G/SPS/W/301.

- Mr Ernesto Guevara, Directorate of Technical Requirements for Foreign Trade, Viceministry of Foreign Trade, **Peru**

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

1.2 Systems-Based Equivalence

Member experiences and approaches to the recognition and implementation of systems-based equivalence.

Speakers:

- Dr Bill Jolly, Chief Assurance Strategy Officer, **New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries**
- Ms Heather Holland, National Manager, Foreign Relations and Issues Management, **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**
- Mr Simon Smalley, Minister Counsellor, **Australia**

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

2 OTHER EXPERIENCES AND APPROACHES

The session will explore other experiences and approaches taken in the implementation of equivalence.

Speakers:

- Ms Martha Byanyima, **COMESA**
- Ms Megan Quinlan, Centre for Environmental Policy, **Imperial College London**

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

3 TAKEAWAY MESSAGES, CONCLUDING REMARKS
