

**SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
CAMEROON AT THE MEETING OF 21-22 JUNE 2000**

Item 4 of the Agenda – The SPS Agreement and developing countries

1. In view of the weakness or lack of risk analysis structures in the developing countries, the delegation of Cameroon would like those countries to be able to take protective measures on the basis of the precautionary principle with respect to the import into their territories of foodstuffs declared somewhere in the world to be a presumed risk to human, animal and plant health without first being obliged to conduct a risk analysis. These measures would apply until the exporting country produced formal evidence that the risk had been entirely eliminated.
2. Similarly, the delegation of Cameroon asks the Committee to take steps to ensure that the import of foodstuffs universally recognized as toxic enough to represent a health hazard for consumers is formally prohibited in the developing countries which lack efficient control structures.

Item 5 of the Agenda – Technical assistance and cooperation

3. The delegation of Cameroon considers that the bulk of the problems of the developing countries stem from insufficient information and training. The countries of Central Africa in general and of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) in particular suffer from this deficiency, which explains their failure to provide notification and their limited participation in the SPS Committees. Accordingly, the delegation of Cameroon invites the Secretariat of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to organize, in Cameroon, one (or several) subregional workshop(s) on behalf of the CEMAC countries with the support of the World Bank, the European Union and Canada or any other donor, on a broad range of topics such as notification, transparency, equivalence, risk analysis, quality control, certification and accreditation, and the setting up of enquiry points concerning the SPS Agreement in the subregion.
4. In the spirit of Article 9 of the SPS Agreement, the delegation of Cameroon also requests technical assistance comprising the training of officials in internationally recognized quality assurance institutions, support for the participation of Cameroon in the meetings of international standardization institutions, and the introduction in Cameroon of a national quality control, accreditation and certification system. Similarly, Cameroon would like to receive material support in the form of office and laboratory equipment. The purpose of this support would be to facilitate the implementation of the SPS Agreement in the countries concerned.
