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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY BOLIVIA ON PERUVIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (STC NO. 530)

COMMUNICATION FROM PERU

The following communication, received on 28 July 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of <u>Peru</u>.

- 1. Peru would like to express before WTO Members its specific trade concern regarding various restrictive measures that, since 2017, have been preventing the entry into Bolivia of Peruvian exports of whole trout.
- 2. It is important to point that, six years ago, the Bolivian health authority officially communicated to Peru the approval of the health certificate for the exportation of fresh or chilled/whole or loose trout, along with the corresponding commitments to allow the export of whole trout to Bolivia.
- 3. However, despite the fact that the Peruvian health authority has been carrying out activities at the border that would allow trout to be marketed and a safe and healthy product to be guaranteed, Bolivia continues to prevent the entry of this product even though a health certificate was agreed upon over five years ago.
- 4. As a result, Peru has been expressing its deep concern about Bolivia's disregard for the international commitments taken on under the WTO SPS Agreement that relate to the principle of transparency, as Bolivia has failed to even notify WTO Members of any of its domestic standards, let alone provide a 60-day comment period for other countries.
- 5. In this regard, through Official Note No. 332-2022-SANIPES/PE, dated 9 September 2022, the National Fisheries Health Service (SANIPES) requested SENASAG to provide the technical justification and the risk assessment carried out for the inclusion of fresh, chilled or frozen (eviscerated) fish in health risk category 1 of Annex 1 to Administrative Resolution SENASAG No. 078/2022. However, to date, Peru has not received a response to that request.
- 6. In light of the above, we ask Bolivia to rescind any restrictions in place on exports of whole Peruvian trout.