

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

Prioritization of Issues for the Future Work Programmes of the SPS Committee

Communication from Brazil

The following communication, received on 24 January 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Brazil.

1. In the Second Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Brazil considers that priority should be given to the following issues:

Cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (Article 12.3)

2. Brazil considers of high importance that the Committee continue to discuss the relationship between the relevant International Standard-Setting Bodies (ISSBs), Codex, OIE and IPPC, and itself. It is our view that improving the cooperation with these ISSBs as the international reference on technical and scientific matters would be beneficial to the effective implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement, especially with regard to harmonization with international standards, guidelines and recommendations. However, the Committee should always take into account the distinct roles and objectives of the ISSBs and the SPS Agreement.

Undue delays

3. Brazil supports the proposal to discuss the issue of "Undue delays", sharing other Members' concerns regarding difficulties arising from undue delays in areas such as recognition of equivalence, adaptation of measures to the pest- or disease-free status of a trading partner; completion of risk assessments related to market access; operation of control, inspection and approval procedures; and in the suspension or adjustment of measures when sanitary and phytosanitary conditions have changed.

4. Following Costa Rica's justification, expressed in document G/SPS/W/180, Brazil considers this issue to be a cross-cutting one, whose discussion therefore should not to be subsumed to the discussions of other topics.

Specific trade concerns

5. Brazil considers this item in the SPS Committee agenda of high importance, as it establishes a forum to solve problems arising from the elaboration and application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Brazil would like to engage in discussions under this agenda item in order to improve this valuable mechanism.
