WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR A WORKSHOP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPS COMMITTEE AND THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Secretariat¹

- 1. One of the issues identified for further consideration by the SPS Committee during the Second Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement was the relationship between the SPS Committee and the three international standard-setting organizations referenced in the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/36, paragraphs 89-91). At the June 2008 meeting of the SPS Committee, Japan submitted a proposal (G/SPS/W/226) for a special workshop to focus on the procedures and issues before the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) ("3 Sisters"). New Zealand also proposed some specific issues which could be addressed on the relationship between the Committee and the 3 Sisters (G/SPS/W/206). The Committee endorsed those proposals, and the Secretariat indicated that such a workshop could be organized in the margins of the Committee's October 2009 meeting.
- 2. Members requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft programme for the workshop, for consideration by the Committee. The attached proposed programme is based primarily on the suggestions from Japan and New Zealand, and consultations with Codex, IPPC and OIE.
- 3. The workshop will invite the representatives of the 3 Sisters to describe the process and procedures used in the development and adoption of international standards, guidelines and recommendations of relevance to the SPS Agreement. Delegates to the SPS Committee will have the opportunity to discuss how to improve coordination of the work between the 3 Sisters and the Committee to enhance effectiveness and avoid duplication.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

WORKSHOP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPS COMMITTEE

AND THE CODEX, IPPC AND OIE

26 October 2009

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

10.00 – 10.15	Opening remarks by the Chair			
10.15 – 10.30	General introd	General introduction – WTO Secretariat		
	Highlight questions to be addressed:			
	(a)	Relevant role of the SPS Committee <i>vis-à-vis</i> (Codex, IPPC, OIE, "3 Sisters")		
	(b)	Potential areas of duplication and opportunities for collaboration		
	(c)	SPS Committee's process to invite 3 Sisters to address concerns		
	(d)	Evaluation of the actions taken by 3 Sisters to resolve issues forwarded by the SPS Committee		
	(e)	Consistency in interpretation of the SPS Agreement across the 3 Sisters		
	(f)	Monitoring of work carried out by other relevant international bodies		
	(g)	Equivalence, non-use of standards, absence of standards, or inappropriate standards and their prioritization within the Committee		
10.30 – 11.00	FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)			
	(a)	Background on standard-setting and collaboration with the SPS Committee		
	(b)	The standard-setting process: role of science; participation of Members, in particular developing countries; decision-making process; duration, etc.		
	(c)	Monitoring the use of standards: how is it done; where and how to effectively address concerns related to non-implementation; difficulties with implementation; new developments requiring review of standards, etc.		
	(d)	Recent/systemic improvements in standard-setting		
	(e)	Emerging/challenging issues: private standards; climate change; regionalization; equivalence, etc.		
11.00 – 11.20	Questions and answers			

11.20 – 11.50	World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)			
	(a)	_	ound on standard-setting and collaboration with the mmittee	
	(b)	Membe	ndard-setting process: role of science; participation of rs, in particular developing countries; decision-process; duration, etc.	
	(c)	how to	ring the use of standards: how is it done; where and o effectively address concerns related to non-entation; difficulties with implementation; new ments requiring review of standards, etc.	
	(d)	Recent/	systemic improvements in standard-setting	
	(e)	Emerging change; standard		
11.50 – 12.10	Questions and answers			
12.10 – 12.40	FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)			
	(a)		ound on standard-setting and collaboration with the mmittee	
	(b)	Members, in particular developing countries; decision-making process; duration, etc.		
	(c)			
	(d)	Recent/systemic improvements in standard-setting		
	(e) Emerging/challenging issues: private standards; for vs. quality; equivalence, etc.			
12.40 – 13.00	Questions and answers			
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch break			
15.00 – 17.45	Identifying concrete actions to:			
		(i)	Enhance the coordination between the Committee and 3 Sisters;	
		(ii)	Increase the use and usefulness of international standards; and	
		(iii)	Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.	

	Discussions could be grouped under the following headings:		
15.00 – 15.45	How to effectively encourage the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations by all Members		
	(a) How can the SPS Committee effectively identify relevant issues linked to non-use of standards, absence of standards, or inappropriate standards, and appropriately prioritize these issues?		
15.45 – 16.45	How to ensure effective collaboration and communication between the SPS Committee and the 3 Sisters		
	(a) Reporting/communication from the 3 Sisters to the SPS Committee		
	Is reporting back to the Committee by the 3 Sisters: (i) effective; (ii) up to Members expectations; and (iii) a tool for harmonization?		
	Does the Committee have a role in assessing the actions taken by the 3 Sisters to resolve a specific issue?		
	(b) Communication from the SPS Committee to the 3 Sisters		
	Is the process used by the Committee to invite the 3 Sisters to address concerns clear and efficient? To what extent can or should the Committee: (i) give guidance towards an outcome; and (ii) provide information, guidance or background to the issue?		
	What are the most effective mechanisms for the Committee to communicate to the 3 Sisters the importance and priority placed on identified issues?		
	(c) Joint action for the prevention/resolution of problems		
16.45 – 17.45	What is the role of the SPS Committee in broader issues common to more than one (or all) of the 3 Sisters? Is it to ensure consistency in interpretation of the SPS Agreement across the 3 Sisters?		
17.45 – 18.00	Closing remarks by the Chair		
17.43 - 10.00	Closing remarks by the chair		