

**REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPS AGREEMENT  
PROPOSAL TO ADVANCE RECOMMENDATION 3 OF THE WORKSHOP  
BETWEEN THE SPS COMMITTEE AND THE INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD-SETTING BODIES (G/SPS/R/57)**

Submission by Canada and Japan

The following communication, received on 29 March 2011, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of Canada and Japan.

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**BACKGROUND**

1. On 26 October 2009, the WTO Secretariat organized a special workshop between the SPS Committee and the Secretariats of the three international standard-setting bodies (ISSBs) referenced in the SPS Agreement (also referred to as the "three Sisters") in response to a request by SPS Committee Members pursuant to the Second Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement. The workshop, open to all Members, Observer Governments, and organizations with Observer status in the SPS Committee, provided an opportunity to clarify the relationship between the SPS Committee and the ISSBs, as well as to review the standard-setting procedures of each of the three Sisters, with a focus on how to enhance the participation of developing countries. The workshop resulted in the identification of areas of future collaboration between the four bodies, as well as 11 specific recommendations intended to improve coordination and collaboration between the SPS Committee and the three Sisters.
2. During the Third Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Members recommended that the Committee follow-up on the recommendations that resulted from this workshop<sup>1</sup>, with a view to strengthening the relationship between the Committee and the ISSBs.
3. In October 2010, Japan submitted a paper (G/SPS/W/251) that proposed priorities for work arising from the Third Review, and, in particular, future actions to be taken to enhance the relationship between the SPS Committee and the ISSBs. In October, 2010, Canada submitted a paper (G/SPS/W/252) also proposing priority areas of work to enhance the cooperation between the SPS Committee and the ISSBs.
4. Both Japan and Canada identified recommendation 3 as an area of priority work. Recommendation 3 of the report calls for "Joint work by two or all three Sisters on cross-cutting issues such as certification, inspection, approval procedures and/or risk analysis".

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendations can be found in G/SPS/R/57.

5. Canada and Japan believe that it is important for the SPS Committee to communicate to the ISSBs the recommendation agreed upon during the WTO workshop. In this regard, Canada and Japan propose the following decision, for consideration by the SPS Committee, be forwarded to the secretariats of the three ISSBs referenced in the SPS Agreement.

#### **DRAFT DECISION**

The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ('the Committee'),

*Desiring* to further the use of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures between Members, on the basis of international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the relevant international organizations;

*Recognizing* the differences in mandates amongst the three sisters;

*Seeking to* promote the use of international standards, guidelines and recommendations;

*Recognizing* the importance of full participation by Members, within the limits of their resources, in standard-setting procedures, especially by developing Members;

*Agrees* as follows:

The Committee encourages joint work by two or all three Sisters on cross-cutting issues such as, *inter alia*, certification, inspection, approval procedures and/or risk analysis.

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