



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

SUBMISSION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following submission, dated 22 January 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United Kingdom.

**1 UK PROPOSALS FOR TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE 6TH REVIEW OF THE
OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF
SPS MEASURES**

**1.1 Examine how the ongoing work of the SPS Committee should/could continue to
engage with the emerging challenges and opportunities identified in the MC12
SPS Declaration and the broader debates on global food security and sustainable food
systems**

1.1. We believe it is important that emerging challenges and opportunities including those identified in the Declaration, and the contribution of SPS measures to food sustainability/security, should continue to be considered by the Committee. Aspects on which the Committee could focus include the role of international standards (the implementation of Article 3: Harmonization); interactions between emerging challenges and SPS-related science and risk analysis.

**1.2 Explore how to further enhance effective utilization of existing flexibilities and
support for developing and least developed countries on the development and application
of SPS measures**

1.2. In light of the interest around the recent proposals tabled by the G90 group of developing and less developed countries to enhance special and differential treatment and technical assistance - and building on the relevant workstream from the MC12 SPS Declaration work programme - we believe the Committee should further consider ways to enhance accessibility and effective utilization of existing flexibilities within the SPS Agreement that support developing and LDC Members to engage and benefit from international trade. (Relevant SPS Agreement Article 9: Technical Assistance, and Article 10: Special and Differential Treatment).

**1.3 Review and promote the role of electronic/IT technologies as a tool to aid the
effective application and operation of SPS measures to facilitate trade**

1.3. We propose a theme that explores in more detail the role of electronic tools and techniques that can be employed to aid the application of SPS measures, including ensuring that cost and ease of implementation do not create undue barriers to trade (for developing and LDC countries in particular). (Relevant SPS Agreement Article 8: Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures and Article 9: Technical Assistance.)

2 UK PROPOSALS FOR THEMATIC SESSION TOPICS FOR 2024

2.1 Facilitating safe trade – Supporting developing and least developed countries in the development and application of SPS measures

2.1. This topic is based on the work of the SPS Declaration Work Programme Group 5: How to increase participation of and support for the special needs of developing and least developed country Members in the development and application of SPS measures. (This topic also links to proposals on the SPS Agreement recently tabled by the G90 group of developing countries.)

2.2 Increasing awareness and compiling best practice on the utilizing the development orientated flexibilities in the SPS Agreement to support developing and LDC Members

2.2. This topic aims to explore in more detail some of the issues that the G90 have raised around the ASP proposals, where we believe there is benefit in ensuring the existing flexibilities are being deployed to best effect.
