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**Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED BY THE WTO SECRETARIAT AT  
THE TBT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14-15 NOVEMBER 2018**

This document contains the statements made by the WTO Secretariat under Agenda item 4 at the 14-15 November 2018 TBT Committee meeting.

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**1 ENQUIRY POINT GUIDE**

1.1. As you will recall, an advance copy of the Enquiry Point Guide was shared with the Committee at the June meeting so as to allow Members time to comment and we thank those members for taking the time to provide comments on that advance copy. We are now pleased to share the final Enquiry Point Guide.

1.2. As I already mentioned in June, this Guide is based on the results on a survey of EPs. What it certainly shows is there is no one size fits all and EPs function differently across the membership. The guide is not intended, nor should it be read, as prescriptive. The intention is to illustrate various practices that appear to be efficient and effective in implementing the TBT Agreement's transparency provisions.

1.3. At risk of stating the obvious: the Secretariat does not itself operate an enquiry point. This is why this guide attributes much importance to the responses received from the survey.

1.4. From our side, we will use this guide in capacity building activities. We invite you to share it with those who work in Enquiry Points. It might also be useful for those working in SPS Enquiry Points and NNAs, and trade facilitation Enquiry Points. Please do let us know how you use the guide.

1.5. It is timely as this work originates from the last triennial review in November 2015 where the Secretariat was requested "... based on experiences shared by Members and for the purposes of training and capacity building, to prepare a guide on best practices for enquiry points ...".

1.6. Copies are available at the back of the room in the three languages– please take one per delegation for the moment. More will be made available and it will be available as a pdf on the TBT gateway page on the [WTO website](#).

1.7. We very much appreciate the cooperation of Members in preparing this guide and we hope you find it useful.

**2 EPING: UPDATE ON THE SPS/TBT NOTIFICATION ALERT SYSTEM**

2.1. As you may recall, [ePing](#) was launched almost exactly two years ago during the November 2016 meeting of the TBT Committee by the three partner agencies: UNDESA, ITC and WTO.

2.2. Since then, the Secretariat's work on ePing has continued on various fronts and I would like to provide a few updates:

2.3. First, on user registrations: Just before its official launch in 2016, ePing had around 700 users, mainly from the countries that had piloted an earlier version of the system, including

Australia and Uganda. As of today, ePing has 5003 registered users from 169 countries. In fact, we registered our 5000th user yesterday afternoon, from an SME, the Agricultural Women's Cooperative based in St Kitts and Nevis, where our SPS colleagues are currently delivering a national seminar. Regarding Enquiry Point registrations, upon their request, 62 TBT Enquiry Points have so far been granted access to ePing's Enquiry Point Management Tool. This means that they can manage domestic users and reach out to them through ePing if they wish. So there continues to be interest in ePing, both from the private and public sector.

2.4. Second, with respect to capacity building and outreach, we regularly integrate ePing into our regular SPS and TBT training activities but we are also receiving an increasing number of technical assistance requests for training specifically on transparency and ePing. We are doing our best to respond favourably to these requests - with our limited human resources. Since the last Committee meeting, we have also uploaded an updated version of the user guide on the ePing website and have started work on an e-learning module for ePing.

2.5. Third, the Secretariat is working with partners UNDESA and ITC to ensure that the ePing system undergoes the required technical maintenance and improvements over time, in light of feedback from users and also in line with the transparency-related recommendations of the Committee, which were just adopted in the context of the Eighth Triennial Review.

2.6. Looking ahead, as already mentioned by the Chairperson, there will be a transparency thematic session in June, where, among other issues, Members will be invited to share their experiences using ePing, especially in reaching out to the private sector. In preparation for the workshop, the Secretariat is planning to run a survey early next year. We also welcome interested Members to approach the Secretariat if they would like to share their ePing experience during the workshop. We will have some funding to bring speakers and participants from developing countries to this event. Further information will be circulated during the first quarter of 2019.

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