



Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED BY THE WTO SECRETARIAT AT
THE TBT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 6-7 MARCH 2019**

This document contains the statements made by the WTO Secretariat at the TBT Committee meeting of 6-7 March 2019.

**1 AGENDA ITEM 2D - FOLLOW-UP ON COMMITTEE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
(G/TBT/41)**

1.1 Enquiry Points verification

1.1. As delegations may recall, one of the recommendations from the 8th Triennial Review was for Members to validate and update as necessary the contact information for their enquiry points as contained in the TBT IMS. Members were encouraged to contact the Secretariat for this purpose by the March 2019 meeting of the Committee.

1.2. In an effort to facilitate this process, the Secretariat sent out an email message to all Enquiry Points on 21 January 2019, asking them to verify their Enquiry Point information.

1.3. So far, 76 Members have responded to this email. 26 Members have confirmed that their Enquiry Point information is correct and 50 have provided updates, including changes to institutional arrangements, contact persons, email addresses, etc. All these changes are already reflected in the TBT IMS.

1.4. The Secretariat is continuing to work on this validation process and will report back during the June meeting of the TBT Committee. In the meantime, delegations are encouraged to contact the Secretariat with any updates to their Enquiry Point information.

**2 AGENDA ITEM 4 - TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES – INFORMATION FROM THE
SECRETARIAT**

2.1 Transparency workshop

2.1. We would like to inform delegations that the Secretariat will be organizing a one-week TBT transparency workshop from 17 to 21 June, coinciding with the TBT Committee meetings.

2.2. The WTO will be able to fund the participation of 30 officials from developing countries, LDCs and economies in transition, working specifically on transparency issues. Participants will attend parts of the TBT Committee meeting, including the transparency thematic session. They will also have an opportunity to exchange experiences and receive hands-on training on transparency tools such as ePing and the SPS NSS.

2.3. The invitation to present candidates for this workshop was circulated by the WTO's Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation on 5 March (i.e. 2 days ago) and the deadline to present

candidates, via the Permanent Missions, is 26 March. We would like to invite interested delegations to follow up to ensure that their candidates are presented by this deadline.

2.2 Update on ePing

2.4. The Secretariat continues to include ePing in its capacity building activities, sometimes through general presentations and sometimes through more detailed hands-on sessions, depending on the beneficiaries and any specific requests. For example, since the last Committee meeting in November, national seminars held in Chile, Guatemala and the Philippines have included dedicated modules on ePing.

2.5. The number of subscribers continues to grow. During the Committee's November meeting, we had registered the 5000th subscriber. As of today, we have more than 6,100 registered users.

2.6. There were some references and queries related to ePing during Tuesday's thematic session on good regulatory practice. In accordance with the Eighth Triennial Review recommendations, the June transparency thematic session will be another occasion to discuss how ePing can facilitate the work of Enquiry Points, including in reaching out the private sector. Members interested in sharing their ePing experience during the June event are invited to contact the Secretariat.

2.7. Lastly, since December, we have a short introductory film on ePing, which is available through the [ePing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqD5Gf2WKZk) website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqD5Gf2WKZk>.
