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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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**CHINA — CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONTROL STANDARDS FOR  
IMPORTED SOLID WASTE AS RAW MATERIALS**

STATEMENT BY CHINA TO THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE  
14 AND 15 NOVEMBER 2018

The following communication, dated 7 December 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of China.

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1. The draft of the *Environmental control standards for imported solid wastes as raw materials* was made available to the general public for comments on 10 August 2017. During the public consultation period, we have received comments from the United States, Australia, and other WTO members. China has carefully studied and considered those comments, and made some adjustments accordingly. One of these adjustments was to defer the entry into force of the new standards. The Chinese government made this decision in consideration of the fact that the relevant industries need to make adjustments to adapt to the new standards, and that the risks of pollution resulting from the accumulation of large quantities of solid wastes import during the transition period must also be avoided. After comprehensively taking into account all these factors, China set an appropriate transition period for the relevant industries to adjust to the new standards by not implementing the new standards until 1 March 2018. The interval between the publication of the draft standards for public comments and the entry into force of the new standard is more than 6 months, which is sufficient for relevant industries to adapt to the new standards.

2. Amending the *Environmental control standards for imported solid wastes as raw materials* is one of the many measures that the Chinese government has taken to address the issue of environmental pollution of solid wastes. It aims to control the environmental pollution and risks to human, animal and plant life and health resulting from solid wastes import to the maximum extent possible. Current scientific studies indicate that the residues resulting from the recycling and disposal of solid wastes and their carried wastes may pose various risks to human, animal and plant life and health, as well as to the environment.

3. China's *Environmental control standards for imported solid wastes as raw materials* is different from the relevant standards of the United States and the European Union in terms of their legal basis, regulatory focus, area of concern, and etc. In these standards, China has set the carried wastes index from the perspective of controlling environmental pollution, with a focus on the possible radioactive pollution and foreign carried wastes of the solid waste. These standards are not intended to impose any de facto import restriction.

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