1 ARTICLE 17 OF THE AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

1.1 Text of Article 17

Article 17

Committee on Agriculture:

A Committee on Agriculture is hereby established.

1.2 Committee on Agriculture

1.2.1 Terms of reference

1. At its meeting on 31 January 1995, the General Council adopted the following terms of reference for the Committee on Agriculture:

"The Committee shall oversee the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture. The Committee shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement."\(^1\)

1.2.2 Rules of Procedure

2. At its meeting on 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods adopted the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Agriculture\(^2\), consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure\(^3\) applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.2.3 Special meeting of the Committee on Agriculture

3. Paragraph 6 of the Committee's working procedures\(^4\) provide that a special meeting may be convened to deal with urgent matters. In the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on global agricultural trade, a special meeting of the Committee was convened on 18 June 2020 dedicated to COVID-19 and agricultural trade policies within the framework of the Agreement on Agriculture.\(^5\) This was the Committee's second such special meeting since its inception in 1995.\(^6\)

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\(^1\) These terms of reference are those agreed by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters of the Preparatory Committee for the World Trade Organization at its meeting on 7 October 1994 (PC/IPL/1), WT/L/43 (17 February 1995).
\(^2\) G/C/M/10, section 1. Text of adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in document G/L/142.
\(^3\) WT/L/161.
\(^4\) G/AG/1.
\(^5\) G/AG/R/94 and Add.1.
\(^6\) The first such special meeting of the Committee was held in 2011 to take up a proposal by the NFIDC Group on food security during the preparatory process for the 8th Ministerial Conference (G/AG/R/94 and Add.1).
1.2.4 Activities

4. The Committee on Agriculture reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods.\(^7\)

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Current as of: March 2021

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\(^7\) G/L/41 for 1995; G/L/131 for 1996; G/L/211 for 1997; G/L/276 for 1998; G/L/322 for 1999; G/L/417 for 2000; G/L/483 for 2001; G/L/594 for 2002; G/L/662 for 2003; G/L/719 for 2004; G/L/746 for 2005; G/L/796 for 2006; G/L/828 for 2007; G/L/856 and Corr.1 for 2008; G/L/894 for 2009; G/L/929 for 2010; G/L/965 and Add.1 for 2011; G/L/999 for 2012; G/L/1044 for 2013; G/L/1093 for 2014; G/L/1126 for 2015; G/L/1165 for 2016; G/L/1194 for 2017; G/L/1283 for 2018; G/L/1332 for 2019; and G/L/1380 for 2020.