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1 ARTICLE 1 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1.1 Text of Article 1

Article 1

General Provisions

1. This Agreement applies to all sanitary and phytosanitary measures which may, directly or indirectly, affect international trade. Such measures shall be developed and applied in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the definitions provided in Annex A shall apply.
3. The annexes are an integral part of this Agreement.
4. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights of Members under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade with respect to measures not within the scope of this Agreement.

1.2 Article 1.1

1.2.1 Scope of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1.2.1.1 Private Standards

1. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) has been discussing the issue of sanitary-or-phytosanitary-related (SPS-related) private standards since June 2005. The SPS Committee decided in October 2008 to request an *ad hoc* working group to undertake a three-step study and to present a report proposing concrete actions for consideration by the SPS Committee at the end of this process.¹

2. The *ad hoc* working group on SPS-related private standards completed its work on identifying "Possible Actions for the SPS Committee Regarding SPS-Related Private Standards" and presented its report to the SPS Committee. The report of the working group is contained in document [G/SPS/W/256](#).

3. At its meeting of 30-31 March 2011, the SPS Committee adopted five of the six actions put forward by the working group for endorsement.² The five actions are listed below:

Action 1: The SPS Committee should develop a working definition of SPS-related private standards and limit any discussions to such a working definition.

Action 2: The SPS Committee should regularly inform the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the World Organization for Animal Health (formerly the Office International des Epizooties, or OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of relevant developments in its consideration of SPS-related private standards and should invite these organizations likewise to regularly inform the SPS Committee of relevant developments in their respective bodies.

¹ See [G/SPS/W/230](#), paras. 4-7; and [G/SPS/R/53](#), paras. 122-137.

² [G/SPS/55](#).

Action 3: The SPS Committee invites the Secretariat to inform it of developments in other WTO fora which could be relevant for its discussions of SPS-related private standards.

Action 4: Members are encouraged to communicate with entities involved in SPS-related private standards in their territories to sensitize them to the issues raised in the SPS Committee and to underline the importance of international standards established by the Codex, OIE, and IPPC.

Action 5: The SPS Committee should explore the possibility of working with the Codex, OIE, and IPPC to support the development and/or dissemination of informative materials underlining the importance of international SPS standards.³

Current as of: April 2020

³ [G/SPS/55](#).