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1.1 Text of the Preamble

Members,

Reaffirming that no Member should be prevented from adopting or enforcing measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, subject to the requirement that these measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Members where the same conditions prevail or a disguised restriction on international trade;

Desiring to improve the human health, animal health and phytosanitary situation in all Members;

Noting that sanitary and phytosanitary measures are often applied on the basis of bilateral agreements or protocols;

Desiring the establishment of a multilateral framework of rules and disciplines to guide the development, adoption and enforcement of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in order to minimize their negative effects on trade;

Recognizing the important contribution that international standards, guidelines and recommendations can make in this regard;

Desiring to further the use of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures between Members, on the basis of international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the relevant international organizations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the relevant international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention, without requiring Members to change their appropriate level of protection of human, animal or plant life or health;

Recognizing that developing country Members may encounter special difficulties in complying with the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of importing Members, and as a consequence in access to markets, and also in the formulation and application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures in their own territories, and desiring to assist them in their endeavours in this regard;

Desiring therefore to elaborate rules for the application of the provisions of GATT 1994 which relate to the use of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, in particular the provisions of Article XX(b)¹;

(footnote original) ¹ In this Agreement, reference to Article XX(b) includes also the chapeau of that Article.

Hereby agree as follows:

1.2 Fifth and sixth recitals: "international standards, guidelines and recommendations"

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organization for Animal Health (previously the International Office of Epizootics), and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection

Convention regularly provide the SPS Committee with information regarding international standards they have adopted.¹

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Current as of: April 2020

¹ See, for example, [G/SPS/GEN/727](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/747](#) (Codex Alimentarius Commission), [G/SPS/GEN/708](#) (World Organization for Animal Health, formerly the Office International des Epizooties), and [G/SPS/GEN/729](#) (International Plant Protection Convention).