

APEC Recommendations on WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Notifications

APEC economies recognize the importance of the provisions on Article 7 and Annex B from WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement developed by WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

To support the Bogor Goals of free and open trade in the Asia Pacific region and implementation of the APEC Cross-Cutting Principles on Non-Tariff Measures, APEC economies welcomed the initiative on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications. The 24th APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement further encouraged economies “to continue APEC’s work on a set of recommendations to improve the quality and completeness of the WTO’s SPS notifications by 2019.”

Following discussions on the importance of improving SPS notifications by promoting transparency amongst APEC economies and other WTO Members, and through the *CTI Public-Private Dialogue on Promoting transparency through the improvement of information submitted in the sanitary and phytosanitary notifications*, APEC economies recognize the importance of the following principles, without prejudice to APEC economies’ positions with respect to discussions in the WTO or other negotiations;

APEC economies should promote collaboration amongst themselves, with other WTO Members, and with the WTO Secretariat. Dialogue among APEC economies may increase WTO Members’ timely notification of emergency and draft SPS measures and facilitate trade within the region and globally.

In the development of notifications, economies should strive to improve the quality and completeness of information provided in both regular and emergency notifications by including clear information in the title, descriptions of the notification content, and product(s) covered, with clear dates for comments and implementation of measures.

Economies are encouraged to provide a translated version of their proposed regulations in any of the WTO official working languages.

Economies are encouraged to consider the different stakeholders, whether public or private, to generate official comments to be taken into account by a notifying economy, in accordance with the provisions established in the SPS / WTO agreement.