

CHAPTER EIGHT

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Chapter are to protect human, animal, or plant life or health in the Parties' territories, enhance the Parties' implementation of the SPS Agreement, and provide a Committee for helping to address bilateral sanitary and phytosanitary matters.

ARTICLE 8.1: SCOPE

This Chapter applies to all sanitary and phytosanitary measures of a Party that may, directly or indirectly, affect trade between the Parties.

ARTICLE 8.2: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

Further to Article 1.2 (Relation to Other Agreements), the Parties affirm their existing rights and obligations with respect to each other under the SPS Agreement.

ARTICLE 8.3: COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MATTERS

1. The Parties hereby agree to establish a Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters comprising representatives of each Party who have responsibility for sanitary and phytosanitary matters.
2. The objectives of the Committee shall be to enhance each Party's implementation of the SPS Agreement, protect human, animal, or plant life or health, enhance cooperation and consultation on sanitary and phytosanitary matters, and facilitate trade between the Parties.
3. Recognizing that the resolution of sanitary and phytosanitary matters must rely on science and risk-based assessment and is best achieved through bilateral technical cooperation and consultation, the Committee shall seek to enhance any present or future relationships between the Parties' agencies with responsibility for sanitary and phytosanitary matters. For these purposes, the Committee shall:
 - (a) recognize that scientific risk analysis shall be conducted and evaluated by the relevant regulatory agencies of each Party;
 - (b) enhance mutual understanding of each Party's sanitary and phytosanitary measures and the regulatory processes that relate to those measures;
 - (c) consult on matters related to the development or application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures that affect, or may affect, trade between the Parties;
 - (d) consult on issues, positions, and agendas for meetings of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures established under the

SPS Agreement, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the relevant international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the *International Plant Protection Convention*, and other international and regional fora on food safety and on human, animal, or plant life or health;

- (e) promote coordination of technical cooperation activities in relation to development, implementation, and application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- (f) improve bilateral understanding related to specific implementation issues concerning the SPS Agreement, including clarification of each Party's regulatory frameworks and rulemaking procedures; and
- (g) review progress on addressing sanitary and phytosanitary matters that may arise between the Parties' agencies with responsibility for such matters, including progress on annual animal health, plant health, and meat, poultry, and processed egg products technical meetings.

4. The Parties shall establish the Committee not later than 45 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement through an exchange of letters identifying the primary representative of each Party to the Committee and establishing the Committee's terms of reference.

5. The Committee shall meet at least once a year unless the Parties otherwise agree.

6. Each Party shall ensure that appropriate representatives with responsibility for the development, implementation, and enforcement of sanitary and phytosanitary measures from its relevant trade and regulatory agencies or ministries participate in the Committee meetings. The agencies and ministries of each Party responsible for such measures shall be set out in the Committee's terms of reference.

ARTICLE 8.4: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Neither Party may have recourse to dispute settlement under this Agreement for any matter arising under this Chapter.