

**CPTPP Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**Committee Report**

1. The third meeting of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures was held virtually on 22nd and 23rd June 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam; Brunei Darussalam was absent. Dr. Tomoko Ishibashi of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, of Japan, chaired the Committee.

2. The Committee agenda is attached at **ANNEX A**.

3. A summary of the Committee's discussion and any outcomes agreed under the respective agenda items is set out below.

4. AGENDA ITEM 1: The Committee agreed to adopt the agenda.

5. AGENDA ITEM 2: There was no update on contact points. Singapore shared that there was some organizational restructuring within the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and would update CPTPP members if there were any changes to the CPTPP contact points once the restructuring is finalized. Malaysia advised that the name of their ministry and email addresses had changed. Japan also advised about their organizational restructuring that would take place on 1st July 2021.

6. AGENDA ITEM 3: New Zealand as the Chair and Canada as the co-Chair reported the progress by the ad hoc Certification Working Group since the 2nd SPS Committee meeting. Members agreed that the Working Group should continue its work using the results of the survey and the developed certification principles to (1) develop some potential model certificates, and (2) work on ways of further promoting the uptake of electronic certification amongst the Members. Members also agreed to the proposal made by New Zealand and Canada to hold a virtual meeting later in the year, in addition to working electronically, to develop model certificates for harmonization and discuss uptake of electronic certification, including a stocktake of progress and barriers to further progress. To help progress this work all Members are invited to join the Working Group and are also encouraged to ensure their relevant technical experts

attend the virtual meeting. Apart from the work of the Working Group, Australia advised the Committee that it would soon be hosting a series of webinars about electronic certification and will provide details in due course.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Canada, Singapore and Australia shared their experiences with adaptation to regional conditions on African Swine Fever. Canada thanked Singapore for recently finalizing an ASF zoning arrangement with Canada to allow for safe trade of swine products from disease free zones in Canada the event of an outbreak. The chair invited other members to share similar information at the next meeting.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Japan, Canada and Australia shared their experiences and activities regarding equivalence. Japan advised about the progress in negotiation about Thailand's SPS measures with regard to Sweet Orange Scab. New Zealand introduced the Codex activities on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems and encouraged CPTPP members to participate in an electronic working group if they were interested in it. Japan and Canada expressed their interest in the activity.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Some members shared information about their activities at the WTO SPS Committee, Codex, OIE and IPPC and invited other CPTPP members to work jointly in these fora. Japan and Australia introduced the activities of Codex CCFICS regarding tackling food fraud in the context of food safety. Canada reported that at upcoming WTO SPS Committee it will be making a statement informing members that Canada was officially recognized as a BSE negligible risk country at the May 2021 OIE General Session. In addition, some members advised that at the next WTO SPS Committee, they would raise specific trade concerns. Canada announced that it would encourage WTO members to participate in a possible SPS Declaration for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference at the next WTO SPS Committee and also invited members to participate in the WTO Working Group on Approval Procedures. Australia shared information about IPPC activity on the development of commodity standard and auditing standards and gave an update on the outcomes of CCFICS. New Zealand shared information about the OIE General Session meeting held in late May 2021, including activities of the OIE Observatory and OIE Codes. New Zealand congratulated Canada on its recent recognition as a BSE negligible risk country and also noted that the draft OIE BSE Chapter would be available shortly and advised that CPTPP members should carefully study the draft Chapter.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: Canada presented a work proposal of recommended procedural guidance for implementation of transparency measures. Members confirmed support for a non-binding guidance that would respect members' confidentiality and privacy requirements and not be overly prescriptive. The Committee agreed to further discuss this matter through an ad hoc working group. Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Japan supported the work and expressed willingness to participate in it. The ad hoc working group will be open to all CPTPP members.

11. AGENDA ITEM 8: Canada discussed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on SPS measures has been signed with Viet Nam. Australia shared information regarding the working group on remote audit of CCFICS, and suggested to consider cooperating on remote auditing among CPTPP members. Australia also introduced that it intends to hold webinars on remote audit. Mexico, Canada and New Zealand were interested in cooperation on remote audit, and New Zealand shared experiences on remote audit. Australia also advised about the usefulness of the Import Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Guideline for Pesticides prepared by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Mexico and Canada expressed interest in cooperation in this field. The Chair suggested that, noting the growing importance of remote audit under the COVID-19 environment, the CPTPP members exchange their experiences about remote audit at the next meeting. Australia also proposed to share more information about the APEC MRL guidelines at the next meeting.

12. AGENDA ITEM 9: Some members shared their experiences on trade during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some members also raised concerns that some countries are not basing their measures on science and unnecessarily restricting trade without scientific justification, and will be raising as specific trade concerns at the upcoming WTO SPS Committee. CPTPP members reconfirmed that COVID-19 response measures should be science-based and consistent with WTO SPS obligations and the standards and guidelines of related international organizations. CPTPP members agreed to work jointly in international arena to advocate this message.

CPTPP members shared perspectives on possible future accession to the CPTPP. CPTPP members reiterated that any future accession must respect and abide by the science-based rules of the SPS chapter of the CPTPP agreement.

13. AGENDA ITEM 10: The Committee noted the intention to hold the 4th CPTPP SPS Committee meeting in conjunction with the Commission meeting in 2022. Pending direction from the Commission, the chair of the following CPTPP SPS committee meeting is expected to be Singapore, supported by Japan and the next host as co-chairs.

14. AGENDA ITEM 11: The Committee agreed to finalize its report by correspondence.

## **ANNEX A**

### **CPTPP Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

<b>AGENDA</b>	
Date and Time:	22nd – 23rd June 2021, 10:00 am (Tokyo Time)
Venue:	Video-Conference
<b>Day 1</b>	
ITEM 1:	Adoption of the Agenda
ITEM 2:	Update on Contact Points (Article 7.6)
ITEM 3:	Update on Certification Working Group (Article 7.12)
ITEM 4:	Adaptation to Regional Conditions (Article 7.7)
ITEM 5:	Equivalence (Article 7.8)
ITEM 6:	Matters Relevant to WTO SPS Committee and/or Codex/OIE/IPPC Meetings (Article 7.5)
<b>Day 2</b>	
ITEM 7:	Transparency (Article 7.13)
ITEM 8:	Cooperation (Article 7.15)
ITEM 9:	Other Issues
ITEM 10:	Next Meeting
ITEM 11:	Committee Report