

SPS Transparency champions course

DRAFT Programme

WEEK 1

Geneva, Switzerland

**3-7 October 2022**



**Structure and Objective**

The first week (i.e. the Geneva-based segment) of the SPS Transparency Champions Course will be aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement, its associated obligations and recommendations and its relevance for agricultural trade. It will include presentations, interactive exercises, group work, and discussion on transparency matters, as well as specialized training on communications. Resource persons will include WTO, International Standard Setting Bodies (ISSBs), national, and regional representatives as well as external experts. By the end of the first week, participants are expected to have a clear understanding of SPS transparency provisions and begin developing practical ideas to strengthen their implementation with a view to improving the transparency framework and trade.



**Day 1 – Monday, 3 October 2022**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 10:00 | **Opening Ceremony**   * Welcome Remarks * Panel discussion (tbc)   *Resource person: WTO representatives, Regional Representative, National Representative* |
| 10:00 – 11:15 | **Overview and Objectives of the Course**   * Structure and objective of the course * Introduction of participants * Questionnaire   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **11:15 – 11:30** | **Coffee Break** |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | **Key principles of the SPS Agreement**   * Overview of key principles of the SPS Agreement and SPS measures * Interactive exercise   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 – 15:45 | **Overview of the Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement**   * Presentation * Interactive exercise   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| 16:00 – 17:15 | **Overview of the Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement (cont'd)**   * Presentation * Interactive exercise   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **17:15 – 17:30** | **Wrap-up and Q & A** |



**Day 2 – Tuesday, 4 October 2022**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Notifying SPS Measures**   * Review of notification obligations * Overview of notification formats * Interactive exercise on notification procedures   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **10:30 -10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **The Role of the National Notification Authority (NNA)**   * Overview of the roles and responsibilities of National Notification Authorities   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | **Group Discussion - National perspective on NNAs**   * Sharing of experiences from National Notification Authorities   *Resource person: Participants, National Representatives (tbc, virtual)* |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 – 15:45 | **Communication, a key transparency tool**   * Workshop led by an external expert to improve participants' communication skills with a view to influencing positive change on SPS transparency matters   *Resource person: External Communications Expert* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| 16:00 – 17:15 | **Communication, a key transparency tool (cont'd)**   * Workshop led by an external expert to improve participants' communication skills with a view to influencing positive change on SPS transparency matters   *Resource person: External Communications Expert* |
| **17:15 – 17:30** | **Wrap-up and Q & A** |



**Day 3 – Wednesday, 5 October 2022**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **The relationship between the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement and international standards: Codex, OIE and IPPC**   * International standards and notification procedures * Sources of information on relevant international standards   *Resource persons: Codex, OIE, IPPC* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **The relationship between the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement and international standards: Codex, OIE and IPPC (cont'd)**   * International standards and notification procedures * Sources of information on relevant international standards   *Resource persons: Codex, OIE, IPPC* |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | **Group discussion with ISSBs - national experiences on identifying and notifying relevant international standards**   * Q&A and Discussion in breakout groups   *Resource person: Participants* |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 - 15:45 | **Sourcing SPS information**   * Overview of the main sources of SPS information * Introduction to the e-Ping SPS&TBT Platform and the Trade Concerns Database * Interactive exercise on searching for SPS information   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| 16:00 – 17:15 | **Submitting SPS Notifications – ePing SPS&TBT Platform**   * Presentation on the notification function of the ePing SPS&TBT Platform   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | **Wrap-up and Q & A** |



**Day 4 – Thursday, 6 October 2022**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Submitting SPS Notifications – ePing SPS&TBT Platform (cont'd)**   * Hands-on exercise on the notification submission functions   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | **Roles and responsibilities of SPS National Enquiry Points (NEPs)**   * Overview of the SPS National Enquiry Point and their functions   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| 11:45 – 13:00 | **Interactive activity – handling comments on notifications**   * Interactive exercise on handling comments on notifications   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 - 15:45 | **The SPS Committee, a forum for discussion**   * Raising, supporting and responding to specific trade concerns (STCs) in the SPS Committee * Presentation of eAgenda and the Trade Concerns Database   *Resource person: WTO representative* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| 16:00 – 17:15 | **Group discussion - transparency recommendations from the Fifth Review of the SPS Agreement**   * Recommendations of the Fifth Review on Transparency including national coordination mechanisms, consultation, coordination on SPS positions and SPS matters * Institutional mechanisms such as National SPS Committees and Regional Initiatives to improve coordination on transparency matters   *Resource persons: WTO representative, National Representative (virtual), Regional Representative* |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | **Wrap-up and Q & A** |



**Day 5 – Friday, 7 October 2022**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Good Regulatory Practice (GRP), Transparency, and Stakeholder Engagement**   * Presentation of the STDF GRP Guide   *Resource persons: STDF Secretariat, National Representatives (virtual), Regional Representative* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 - 13:00 | **Overview and discussion of outreach functions – ePing SPS&TBT Platform**   * Overview of the outreach/communication functions of the e-Ping SPS&TBT Platform and hands-on training * Discussion on the use of the outreach function of the ePing SPS&TBT Platform including with the private sector   *Resource persons: WTO representative, National Representative (virtual), Regional Representative, Private Sector (TBC)* |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 - 15:45 | **Preparing an action plan to improve transparency**   * With support from an M&E expert, participants will identify gaps and opportunities to improve transparency and begin conceptualising an action plan to be implemented in their country to address these   *Resource person: External M&E Expert* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | **Preparing an action plan to improve transparency (cont'd)**   * With support from an M&E expert, participants will identify gaps and opportunities to improve transparency and begin conceptualising an action plan to be implemented in their country to address these   *Resource person: External M&E Expert* |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Closing and information on virtual follow up |