WTO National Workshop:

Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)

DRAFT Programme

(Week of 25 September 2023)

**VENUE**

The Gambia

**Structure and objective**

This workshop will provide an overview of the SPS Agreement with a view to enhance participants' understanding and knowledge of the benefits of its implementation in The Gambia. The workshop will also aim at exploring tools to improve national coordination in the country, including the ePing SPS&TBT Platform. Finally, participants will become aware of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) projects and knowledge work and how stakeholders in The Gambia can benefit from them.

**Resource persons - WTO**

**Ms Isabel Calderón**

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Economic Affairs Officer

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**Resource persons – The Gambia**

TBC

**Background materials**

WTO sites, platforms and documents relevant to sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

* [Sanitary and phytosanitary measures - Gateway](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm)
* [Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/15sps_01_e.htm)
* [Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - Members' transparency toolkit](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/transparency_toolkit_e.htm)
* [The SPS Committee](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/work_and_doc_e.htm)
* [Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - Major decisions and reference documents](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/decisions06_e.htm)
* [ePing SPS&TBT platform](https://eping.wto.org/en)
* [SPS eLearning Course](https://www.learning.wto.org/local/coursecatalogue/index.php?categoryid=50)

WTO video "Let's Talk Food Safety"

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7HHRTHc4zA>

Videos created and provided by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

* National treatment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s04acalFRrc>
* Basic rights and obligations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB7KD0Hm1X4>
* Equivalence: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GxsV16ufBU>
* Harmonization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY4AIhZYC9s>
* Regionalization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sg8b-dvKH4>
* Risk assessment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwMkm95ZnE0>
* Transparency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IkLFrtjC-U>

Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF): [Website](https://standardsfacility.org/)

STDF [Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA)](https://standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima)

STDF GRP Guide: [Good regulatory practices to improve SPS measures: A practical guide](https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_GRP_Guide_EN.pdf)

[Public-Private Partnerships](https://standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships)

[Public-Private Partnership Case Stories](https://standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnership-ppp-case-stories)

[SPS-Related Capacity Evaluation Tools](https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Capacity_Evaluation_Tools_Eng_1.pdf)

STDF Funding: [Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) and Project Grants (PGs) Application Forms](https://standardsfacility.org/funding)

STDF PG and PPGs in the Gambia:

* [STDF/PG/134: Expanding fish trade in West Africa](https://standardsfacility.org/PG-134) (Regional Project)
* [STDF/PG/255: Regional initiative to control fruit fly in West Africa](https://standardsfacility.org/PG-255) (Regional Project)
* [STDF/PPG/377: Enhancing national plant protection system](https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-377)
* [STDF/PPG/462: Strengthening SPS capacity in the public sector](https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-462)

STDF video ["Shaping a Safer World"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnQE_lPtztk)

STDF [Youtube channel](https://www.youtube.com/%40STDFvideos/featured)

**Day 1:**

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| **Time** | **Session** |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | **1.1 Registration of participants** |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | **1.2 Opening Ceremony*** Opening remarks:
	+ *Representative from The Gambia*
	+ *Representative from the World Trade Organization (WTO)*
 |
| 9:30 – 10:15 | **1.3 Overview and Objectives*** Introduction of participants and ice-breaker activity
* Structure and objective of the workshop
* Self-assessment quiz

*Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | **1.4 Introduction to the WTO and the SPS Agreement*** General introduction to the WTO and the SPS Agreement

*Resource person: Isabel Calderón* |
| **10:45 – 11:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| 11:00 – 12:45 | **1.5 Overview of Key Principles of the SPS Agreement*** Interactive group activity
* Discussion & presentation

*Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| **12:45 – 14:00**  | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | **1.6 Identifying SPS Challenges*** Group activity: Identifying SPS challenges

 *Resource persons: All participants*  |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | **1.7. Sharing of National Experiences in Implementing the SPS Agreement*** Benefits and challenges of the implementation of the SPS Agreement
* Impact on trade

*Resource persons: The Gambia* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 16:15 |  **1.8 The WTO SPS Committee** * Role and function
* Committee agenda items

*Resource person: Isabel Calderón* |
| 16:15 – 16:45 | **1.9 The national SPS Committee** *Resource person: The Gambia* |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | **1.10 Brief Recap***Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |

**Day 2:**

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| **Time** | **Session** |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | **2.1 Debrief of Day 1: Key provisions learnt***Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | **2.2 The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)*** General presentation of the STDF
* Overview of PGs and PPGs in The Gambia and in the region
* "Shaping a safer world"

*Resource person: Aichetou Ba* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | **2.3 Prioritizing SPS investments for market Access (P-IMA)*** Presentation of the P-IMA framework

*Resource person: Aichetou Ba* |
| 11:15 – 12:45  | **2.4 Prioritizing SPS investments for market Access (P-IMA) - Cont'd*** Group activity: Identifying decision criteria
* Short presentation on P-IMA's software

*Resource persons: All participants*  |
| **12:45- 14:00**  | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | **2.5 Overview of online sources of SPS information*** [WTO Documents Online](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S005.aspx)
* [Trade Concerns Database](https://tradeconcerns.wto.org/en)
* [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](https://eping.wto.org/)

*Resource person: Isabel Calderón* |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | **2.6 The ePing SPS&TBT Platform** * Registration in the ePing SPS&TBT Platform
* Search functions – Interactive exercise

*Resource person: Isabel Calderón* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | **2.7 ePing SPS&TBT Platform – Cont'd*** Communication and notification functions

*Resource person: Isabel Calderón* |
| 16:15 – 16:45 | **2.8 National SPS coordination on transparency matters*** Presentation from SPS national notification authority (NNA)/national enquiry point (NEP)

*Resource persons: SPS NNA/NEP from The Gambia* |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | **2.9 Brief Recap***Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |

**Day 3:**

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| **Time** | **Session** |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | **3.1 Debrief of Day 2: Key points learnt***Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | **3.2 How to react to incoming notifications?** * Group exercise

*Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 12:45 | **3.3 How to address SPS issues*** Group exercise
* Specific trade concerns in the SPS Committee

*Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| **12:45 - 14:00**  | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **3.4 Looking ahead, what next?*** Existing technical assistance opportunities
* STDF's knowledge work and funding mechanism

*Resource persons: Isabel Calderón and Aichetou Ba* |
| 15:15 – 16:00 | **3.5 Closing session*** Final Q&A
* Post-assessment quiz
* Evaluation
* Closing remarks:
	+ *Representative from The Gambia*
	+ *Representative from WTO*
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| **16:00**  | **End of the activity** |

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