

ESSENTIALS FOR SPS COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION (VIRTUAL TRAINING ACTIVITY) OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025

PROGRAMME

This is the second edition of the virtual course on [Essentials for SPS Committee Participation](#). This course is an in-depth and "hands-on" activity focusing on the work of the SPS Committee as a vital tool to oversee the implementation of the SPS Agreement and on the instruments available to Members to resolve SPS issues. Through presentations, discussions, and practical exercises on the work of the SPS Committee and the principles and guidelines that underpin it, this training activity will give participants the necessary tools to engage actively in the work of the SPS Committee. The activity will also involve briefing sessions with the Chairperson of the Committee and other SPS delegates.

This training comprises a series of online sessions on Zoom, 1h30 minutes each, over a period of eight weeks. Participants will be required to use a virtual classroom to consult key materials, complete assignments, report on progress, and exchange on specific topics through dedicated chats. The activity will also involve a follow-up session in February 2026 (date to be confirmed) to monitor progress.

As a key component of this activity, participants will be requested to complete preparatory tasks before each session and make the necessary arrangements to participate (virtual participation upon agreement by the participants' respective Missions) in the WTO SPS Committee week of 3-7 November 2025.

Date	Session	Preparatory work
1 October	Welcome session Ice-breaker; analysis of pre-course activities; setting tasks for the course	Complete pre-course activities
8 October	SPS Agreement Review of the main principles of the SPS Agreement Short presentations by participants of key takeaways from Committee decisions on e.g. equivalence, guidelines on regionalization, guidelines on consistency, guidance on approval procedures, etc.	Read the SPS Agreement and key materials; prepare advance questions on the SPS Agreement For four selected participants: prepare to present Committee guidance
15 October	SPS Committee: overview Review of the role of the Committee, how it functions and how to benefit from it; e-tools to support Members' engagement Short presentations by participants on procedure for ad hoc consultations, annual report on ad hoc consultations, and annual report on STCs	Read key materials For three selected participants: prepare to present Committee documents on ad hoc consultations and STCs
20 October	1-to-1 sessions In a short 1-to-1 session with one of the WTO trainers, participants will reflect on how to build individual action points to enhance their countries' engagement in the SPS Committee	
22 October	Transparency Discussion of SPS transparency principles and related Committee work; results of the exercise on the ePing SPS&TBT platform Presentations by participants on transparency report and guidelines	Read key materials Complete exercise on the ePing SPS&TBT platform For two selected participants: prepare to present transparency report and guidelines

Date	Session	Preparatory work
29 October	<p>Meeting the SPS Committee Chairperson Participant-led discussion on the importance of the Committee and how to engage in its work</p> <p>Debrief and discussion What to watch out for during Committee week?</p>	Prepare questions for the Chairperson of the SPS Committee
3-7 November	SPS Committee week	Review key Committee documents and reflect on a series of questions for discussion in the debrief of 12 November
12 November	<p>Debrief on SPS Committee week and discussion Focus: transparency working group; mentoring; follow-up of the Sixth Review recommendations; STCs; role of international standard-setting bodies; Thematic Session on IT tools for import controls and facility registration</p>	
19 November	<p>Addressing SPS trade issues (work in small groups) In small groups, prepare a Committee statement to raise, support, or respond to a specific trade concern</p>	Read and prepare case study
20 November	<p>Addressing SPS trade issues (mock SPS Committee discussion led by participants) Hands-on exercise to explore how to address SPS-related trade concerns; mock Committee meeting; presentation by participants; discussion</p>	
26 November	<p>Meeting SPS delegates Participant-led discussion on coordination and preparation for Committee meetings</p> <p>Debrief and discussion Identifying good practices to prepare for Committee meetings</p>	Prepare questions for SPS delegates
27 November	<p>Individual action points Presentations by participants; discussion</p> <p>Quiz</p>	<p>Upload individual action points on the virtual classroom</p> <p>For selected participants: prepare to present individual action points</p>
("side session" in any given week)	Virtual coffee: informal chat with the STDF	
February 2026	<p>Follow-up session Participants to report on individual action points; Discussion on what to watch out for in the March 2026 Committee meeting</p>	Prepare to present updates on individual action points