

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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REPORT (2011) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE¹

1. The Committee held its fifty-third and fifty-fourth regular meetings on 24-25 March 2011 and 15-16 June 2011, chaired by Mr. Amit Yadav (India) and Ms Denise Pereira (Singapore) respectively.²

2. At each of the meetings in 2011, the Committee heard statements from a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement. In total, since 1995, 124 Members have submitted at least one Statement on implementation and administration under Article 15.2 of the TBT Agreement.

3. New specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse effects or inconsistency with the Agreement. The Committee also heard exchanges on several trade concerns that have been previously raised (G/TBT/GEN/74/Rev.8).

4. During the reporting period, the Committee continued the exchange of experiences on various horizontal issues arising from the operation and implementation of the Agreement, including: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, transparency, and technical assistance. In particular, the TBT Committee explored, in 2011, the subject of good regulatory practice.

5. At the meeting on 24-25 March 2011, the Committee adopted its report of the Sixteenth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/29 and Corr.1). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the Sixteenth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in the period under review (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.15), a list of standardising bodies that have accepted the Code since 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.17) and the Sixteenth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

6. During the reporting period, representatives of the Codex, ISO, IEC, UNECE, ITC, OIML and WHO updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.

¹ This report has been prepared under the responsibility of the Chairperson. It covers the first two meetings of the TBT Committee in 2011 and will be complemented (by revision) after the Committee's last meeting in 2011.

² G/TBT/M/52 and 53.